

Thursday August 15 1996

Table of international flight routes and times, including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Albany, and Amsterdam.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Who is Dr Harash Narang?

Milking the mad cow crisis

G2 with European weather

Lisa Jardine on today's Renaissance women

The women who do it all

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OnLine

How to handle Martian mania

G2 pages 10/13

Justice commission chief is elite mason

Link exposes review body to ridicule say angry campaigners

Duncan Campbell and Malcolm Glynn

THE Government's new body to investigate miscarriages of justice was thrown into crisis last night when it emerged that the chairman is a member of an elite branch of the Freemasons.

The commission is due to start operating later this year or early next year with 11 commissioners and a staff of 60, who will examine cases of alleged miscarriage of justice.

Remember that in your respective Lodges you have solemnly and voluntarily vowed to relieve and befriend with unhesitating cordiality every Brother who might need your assistance...



Sir Frederick Crawford... part-time chairman at £28,000 a year



Space probe pictures hint at water under frozen crust of Jupiter moon

Tim Radford Science Editor

FOR the second time in a week, NASA scientists have raised the tantalising possibility of extra-terrestrial life.

The latest discovery is based on photographs taken while Galileo flew 95,000 miles above the Jovian moon Europa, which is about the size of the Earth's moon and covered with smooth ice.

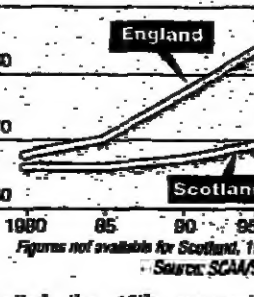
Scramble after A-level record

John Carvel Education Editor

UNIVERSITIES were last night sending out a bumper crop of confirmed offers of undergraduate places after record A-level results brought thousands more candidates up to the grades required for admission.

Ireland said the proportion of A level passes increased by 1.8 per cent to 85.8 per cent of all papers sat.

A level results



halled the 15th successive year of improved results as a tribute to the hard work of nearly 200,000 candidates and their parents and teachers.

standards must be at risk," said Lord Henley, the education minister.

Inside

The case of a man who bought a handgun by mail order and shot dead a woman has furthered calls for a total ban on privately owned arms.

World News

One Greek Cypriot was killed and two UN British soldiers wounded when trouble erupted again in the buffer zone which divides Cyprus.

Finance

Bankers and brokers with SBC Warburg and its parent Swiss Banking Corporation have shared in a near £60 million bonus bonanza.

Sport

Lindor Christie was edged into third place in the Zurich 100 metres by Dennis Mitchell and the Olympic champion Donovan Bailey.

Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, Quick Crossword 15, TV, Radio and Weather 16, and a barcode with number 9 770261 307347.

4,000 French campsites 'pose serious safety risks'

Paul Webster in Paris

HUNDREDS of thousands of holiday-makers are at risk in French camping sites, according to the provisional findings of a government report which shows that at least 4,000 sites are potentially unsafe because of the threat of natural or man-made disasters.

de Calais, 216 are potentially unsafe or inadequately protected, while figures for the Var on the Mediterranean show only 18 out of 313 sites to be beyond risk.

THE LONDON INSTITUTE advertisement listing various colleges of arts and design, and a list of famous ex-students including Brody, Conran, Fantoni, Fitch, Frink, Galiano, Hamnett, Hegarty, Kapoor, Oldfield, and Ozbek.

Sketch

Mash 'n' trash on San Diego menu



Peter Preston

EXPLANATORY note: a trash can, as I understand it, is a wastebasket... image of breakfast television: short, snappy and moving-belt repetitive.

First night

Supply shifting through the ages

Michael Billington Orlando Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh

AT LEAST it happened. Unlike the debacle surrounding Robert LePage's Elsinore, which has been cancelled...

'SAS fantasist' says RUC threat made him recant

DAVID PALLISTER A FORMER soldier, dismissed as a fantasist by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, is now claiming that the RUC threatened him with murder charges unless he said his account of an SAS execution squad in Northern Ireland was untrue.

Largest offshore wind farm



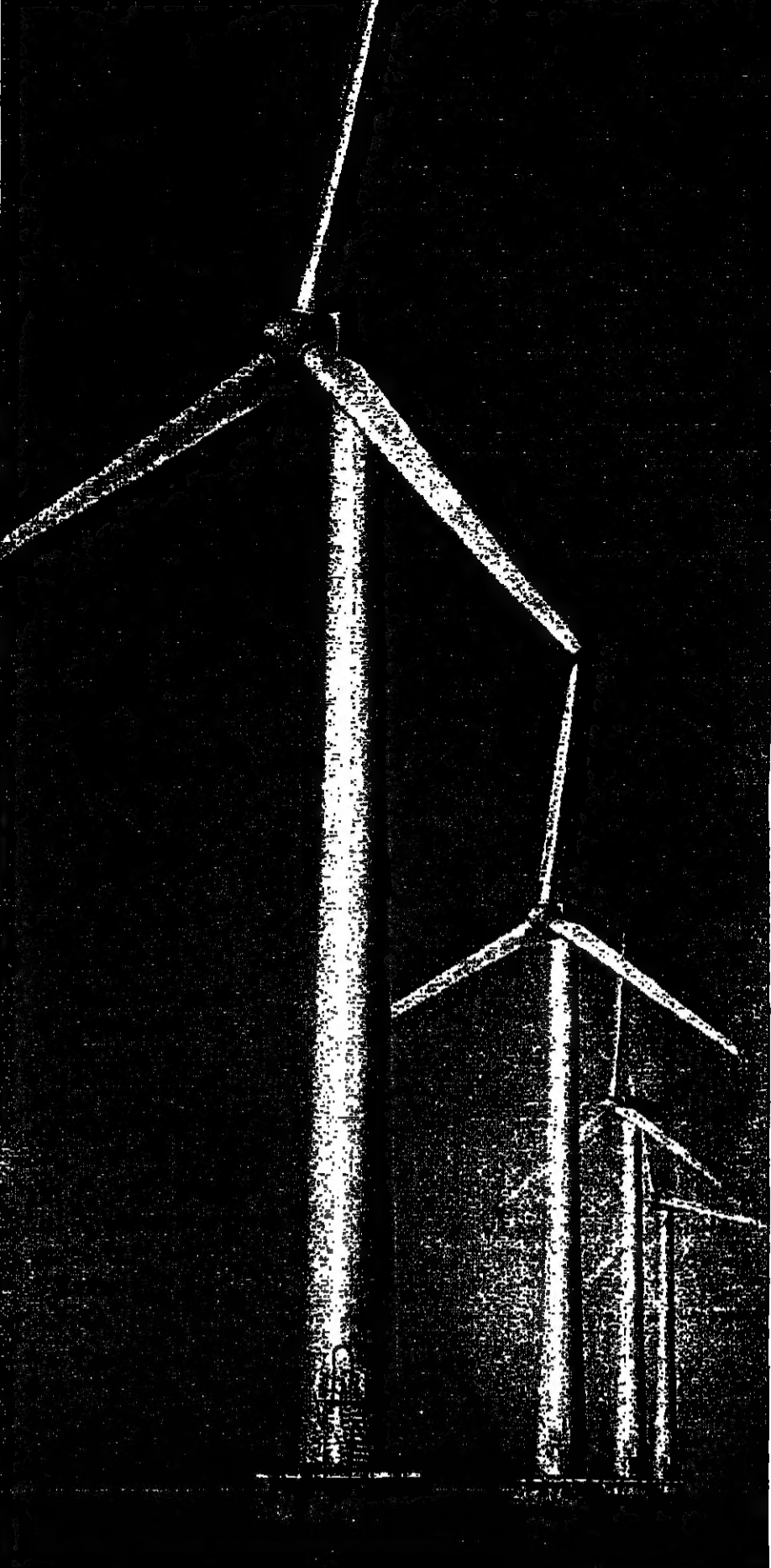
Largest offshore wind farm planned

BUILT on a shifting seabed two miles beyond the Norfolk coast, the world's largest offshore wind farm could be generating electricity by 1998...

Norfolk project would involve up to 25 giant turbines

Owen Bowcott finds a powerful answer blowing in the wind

Earth, yesterday gave a qualified welcome to the news that PowerGen and its Danish partner, Vestas, are pursuing the scheme...



Some of the 10 offshore wind turbines which last year became operational after being installed by Vestas off the coast of the Jutland peninsula

water at high tide, will be anchored to the sea floor by concrete pinnacles...

'Smoking laptop' enters Manhattan terror trial

Amorous talk on disc may nail a suspected bomber. Ian Katz in New York reports



Ramzi Ahmed Yousef: accused of airline bomb plot

PERHAPS he liked to listen to the sweet voice of a woman...

Trade Centre bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000, for which he will stand trial this year.

Pictures hint at water under crust of Jupiter moon

continued from page 1 Scientists a step closer to determining whether Europa had environmental "niches" warm enough and wet enough to meet the requirements to host life, Mr Grosley said.

The Guardian Offer The Perfect Break... The Guardian is offering you the opportunity to see some of the world's most exciting performing artists at a discounted price at the Ross-on-Wye International Festival.

Case strengthens calls for firearms ban as campaigners point to 'terrifying weaknesses' of controls

Life for killer who got gun by mail order

Alex Bellis

A MAN who bought a handgun by mail order was given four life sentences yesterday after he shot dead a woman and attempted to kill three other people, in a case which strengthened calls for a ban on privately-owned firearms.

Richard Humphrey got round gun legislation by obtaining someone else's licence through the classified section of Gun Mart magazine. He then sent it to a dealer who posted a .22 semi-automatic pistol and a .357 Magnum to his south London home.

Over a four-month period last year Humphrey, aged 22, patrolled London with his guns, inflicting terror indiscriminately. He murdered a mother of two as she returned home from church, fired at the head of a man on the London Underground, and mugged an RAF officer, shooting him in the chest and back.

The case, coming a day after the Conservative-led Commons home affairs select committee rejected a ban on private handgun ownership, provoked further outrage among anti-gun campaigners.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said the case exposed the weakness of the system. "A wholesale prohibition of handguns is the correct solution, rather than tinkering with existing laws. Why should combat handguns be in private hands?"

Sir Lawrence Verner, the Recorder of London, appeared to side with the anti-gun lobby when he told Humphrey at the Old Bailey that it was "deplorable" that he had obtained the weapon.

"It is very much in the news today that this is something of great public concern. Those who have to make decisions will perhaps make note that it was a .22 which caused the damage in this case."

A controversial part of Tuesday's report dealt with weapons over .22 calibre.

Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said: "Supplying guns by mail

- Beretta Model 76 £180. .22 S & W Model 63 4" £230. .22 Colt Trooper 6" £235. .357 Mag S & W Model 13 4" £195. .357 Mag S & W Model 27.2 8 1/2" £245. .357 Mag S & W 27 nickel 3 1/2" £210. .44 Mag Astra Terminator 4" £195. .44 Mag S & W Model 29 4" nickel £255. Telephone: 0203 222222



Richard Humphrey, right, who replied to an advert, top, in the October 1994 edition of Gun Mart to obtain a .22 pistol, similar to that pictured left, with which he shot Wing Commander Peter Drissell, above. Humphrey was jailed for life yesterday

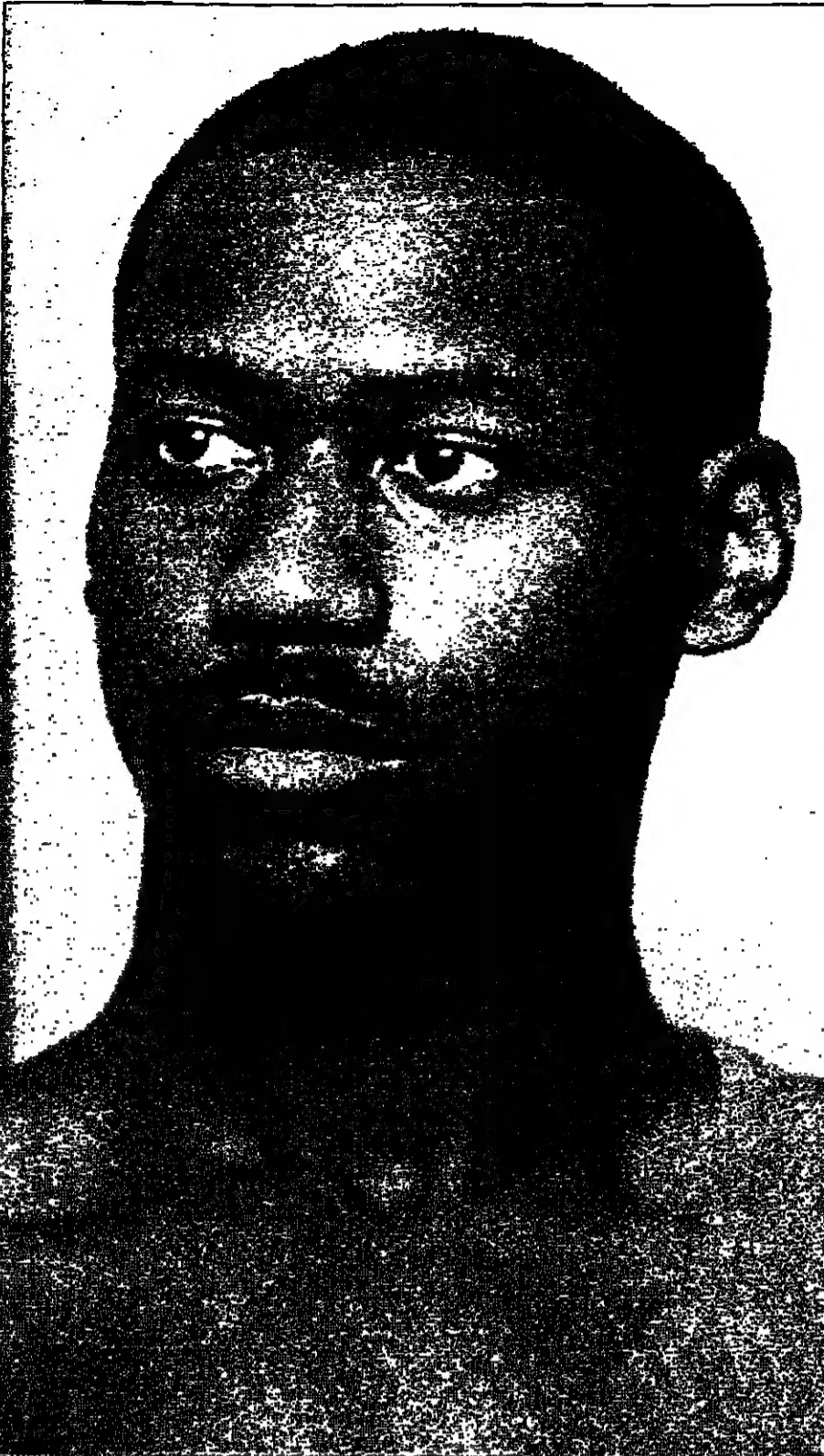
order is one of the terrifying weaknesses of the current gun control system. The whole system needs a complete overhaul to prevent guns of any kind getting into the wrong hands."

Gun Mart refused to comment, but a former editor said Humphrey's actions should not be used to make a political point. "Our gun laws are as strict as anywhere in the world. Making it more illegal

does not stop people doing it." Humphrey's method of obtaining the gun was to offer pistols to a man advertising in Gun Mart. He persuaded the buyer to send his gun licence for checking. Posing as the enthusiast, he got another advertiser to supply him with guns. Humphrey mailed the gun dealer the stolen certificate and £230 in postal orders. In return he was sent the firearms and am-

munition. The dealer notified police. Humphrey was already under investigation as a result of earlier approaches to advertisers and police in Brixton, south London, went to his home. They were 30 minutes too late and found only an empty box.

The jury was told how Humphrey targeted his victims at close range. He killed Victoria Oduwal, aged 36, in cold blood in Stockwell, south



London. Accompanied by another man, he mugged Wing Commander Peter Drissell, who "miraculously survived" a hail of at least five bullets, four of which remain in his body. Had the 5ft 11in tall officer not been so fit he would probably have died, the court heard.

Humphrey also tried to kill passer-by Carol Bell, who witnessed the mugging. She escaped injury. The same

month on the Underground he fired at disc jockey Michael Perry's head, but hit Mr Perry's raised arm.

Humphrey went to South Thames College in Putney, south-west London. He had GCSEs and was intelligent, tall, slim and fit. He shouted "Senseless, racist bastards" at the jury when they found him guilty.

Letters, page 8

Jobless total tumbles to five-year low

Sarah Ryle

UNEMPLOYMENT fell last month to a five-year low, signalling strengthening economic growth and Conservative hopes in the run-up to the general election but sparking renewed attacks on the accuracy of the jobless count.

Official figures yesterday showed the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 24,100 in July to 2,126,000, bringing the jobless rate to 7.6 per cent - the lowest level since March 1991.

The Government and City analysts welcomed the fall, the fifth monthly decrease in a row. They said it kept Britain's predicted economic recovery on course for the second half of this year.

The City said the bright jobs outlook supported the Bank of England's recent warning to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that a rise in interest rates was needed to guarantee his inflation target. But fears of overheating were dampened as earnings growth remained flat.

The latest figures show wage inflation in June was 3.75 per cent for the fifth month in a row. There was also evidence that the recovery was unevenly spread, as manufacturing unemployment rose in June.

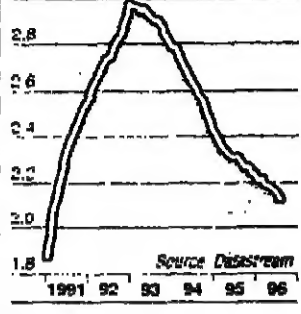
Analysts said these factors meant the latest jobs news would not deter Mr Clarke from cutting base rates again to ensure people felt the effects of the economic upturn.

The education and employment minister, Eric Forth, said he would not read too much into one month's "exceptionally large fall". The Office for National Statistics, which compiled the jobs figures, acknowledged that the wave of students leaving education for the labour market made the July figures hard to assess accurately. However, it estimated that the downward trend in unemployment would accelerate to an average monthly decrease of 15,000.

The number of new vacancies at job centres rose, supporting the more buoyant prediction. "Falling unemployment and the expectation of steady economic growth offer increasingly good job prospects for young people and unemployed adults," said Mr Forth, who highlighted the decrease in long-term unemployment. The number of people out of work for a year or more

Five-year low

Claimant unemployment, seasonally adjusted, millions.



The number of people out of

dropped by 27,300 in the three months to July, the 10th consecutive quarterly fall.

The Government was immediately criticised for manipulating the jobs figures by Labour, which is due to unveil a dossier on Tory economic policy today.

The shadow employment minister, Stephen Byers, said unemployment among school-leavers aged 16 and 17 had risen by 30 per cent in three years according to the most recent Labour Force Survey, a broader survey of joblessness which is in line with other EU countries. The Government has refused to publish it on a monthly basis.

Mr Byers said job opportunities had dwindled, pointing out the number in work had fallen by 71,000 in the first three months of this year to 25,734,000. This level was, however, 15,000 higher than at the same time last year.

The unions were also sceptical about the true state of the labour market. The TUC general secretary, John Monks, said: "The fall in claimant unemployment is welcome, but it is not a reliable guide to what is really happening in the labour market... and while the social contract in Britain's workplaces continues to erode, there will be no reduction in job insecurity."

A rise in industrial action led to a sharp increase in the number of working days lost through disputes in June to 528,000, the biggest monthly figure since March 1990. Officials said the rise was mainly due to the postal strikes.

Leader comment, page 8; Fiddling and yet unashamed, page 12; Rate out gloom and Notebook, page 11

Chief quits in hospital flare-up

No confidence vote highlights 'absurd contradictions' of internal market

Chris Mihill Medical Correspondent

THE chairman of a leading regional hospital resigned yesterday after senior doctors passed a vote of no confidence in him and threatened to quit their management duties.

The departure of Peter Allen is part of a dispute which erupted after Morriston hospital in Swansea lost a contract to care for elderly people and sacked 16 staff, including three consultants.

The neighbouring Singleton hospital, which won the contract, was then refused permission to hire the sacked staff. This meant that elderly people were facing the prospect of being looked after by junior doctors while senior doctors faced redundancy.

The British Medical Association said the situation reflected the "absurd contradictions" of the internal market system, whereby local hospitals had to compete against each other rather than co-operating, and senior doctors were sacked while patients were forced to receive care from less qualified staff.

The row has split doctors and managers in Swansea, where Morriston and Singleton hospitals, serving 200,000 people, found themselves fighting for the same contracts to care for patients.

Earlier this year the West Glamorgan Health Authority switched a £1.6 million contract for the care of the elderly from the Morriston to the Singleton. The manager of the health authority, Tony Beddow, then moved to become chief executive of the Morriston.

The Morriston is facing a budget deficit in excess of £2 million - and Mr Beddow was forced to come to terms with the consequences of his own previous contract decision.

He decided to sack 16 staff, including three consultants involved in care of the elderly. Subsequently, doctors at the hospital passed a no confidence motion in Mr Beddow and Mr Allen.

The redundancies were later withdrawn, but 16 senior consultants who hold

management positions yesterday preferred their resignations from management duties, although they will continue to treat patients, saying they could no longer work with the managers.

Within hours, Mr Allen had resigned, saying this was in the overall interest of the trust and patients.

Dr Bob Broughton, Welsh Secretary of the BMA, said the union was not calling for jobs for life for doctors if work disappeared, but senior

staff could not be sacked without due warning and consultation as had happened in at the Morriston.

Dr Broughton said: "What is happening at the Morriston is an example of the seriously destabilising effects of the internal market on how hospitals are run. Morriston faces an overspend of millions but this is by no means unique. The problems are coming to a head in Wales because trusts here are generally smaller, but the distortion of clinical priorities is happening everywhere."

Rhodri Morgan, Labour's health spokesman for Wales, said that the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, should "knock heads together" and that there was a clear case for merging the two Swansea hospitals so that they could work as one for the benefit of patients rather than competing against each other. "Mr Hague should cease his naive belief that competition between hospitals is healthy."

Welsh Office minister, Gwyn Jones, who accepted Mr Allen's resignation "with regret", said that the top priority was for a new chairman to be appointed as soon as possible to re-establish effective management at the trust.

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Canine show world in a whirl over the tale of dizzy Chizzy

CRICKET had Botham Overton Khan, football has Venables versus Sngar. Yesterday dog showing became the latest sport to see its biggest names clash far away from their usual venues, writes Nick Varley.

The case of the drugged chihuahua ended in tears, figuratively, for owner Carol Brampton, who was

found to have "behaved discreditably or prejudicially to the interests of the canine world".

But it was her rival, Tracy Dyke, who had been in tears literally as she told the disciplinary sub-committee of the Kennel Club of how her dog Chizzy - full name Deltramer Secret Showburst - keeled over at

a show in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, last October, and appeared to have died.

Mrs Dyke, aged 37, of Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, and three witnesses told the hearing that they heard Mrs Brampton, aged 46, of Faversham, Kent, admit she had given Chizzy valium.

But she claimed that she was the victim of a vendetta because of her success over two decades of competition.

The sub-committee found against her and banned her from taking part in or attending Kennel Club events for five years. She was also ordered to pay costs of £209.

Penn comes within one step of a masterpiece; then he throws it all away in an ending that starts by mixing nightmare and farce and then goes teeth-grindingly wrong.
The Crossing Guard reviewed

G2 page 8

DAVE WAS OVER THE MOON...

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Colleagues praising Christopher Gray, murdered in his churchyard, say he knew all the dangers of his ministry

Parents pay tribute to vicar as a 'loving son'

David Ward on city mourning its priest



THE parents of the murdered Liverpool vicar Christopher Gray yesterday paid tribute to their "loving son" who was stabbed to death in his churchyard.

His father, Philip, read a brief statement and answered questions at a press conference; his mother, Margaret, spoke only once, but her nine words about Father Gray stifled all further questions: "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him."

Having faced a host of reporters and film crews, the couple had them to formally

identify the body of their 32-year-old son.

As they did so, Merseyside police continued to question Peter Storey, whom they had named in connection with the killing. He was arrested with two others in a flat in St Helens early yesterday.

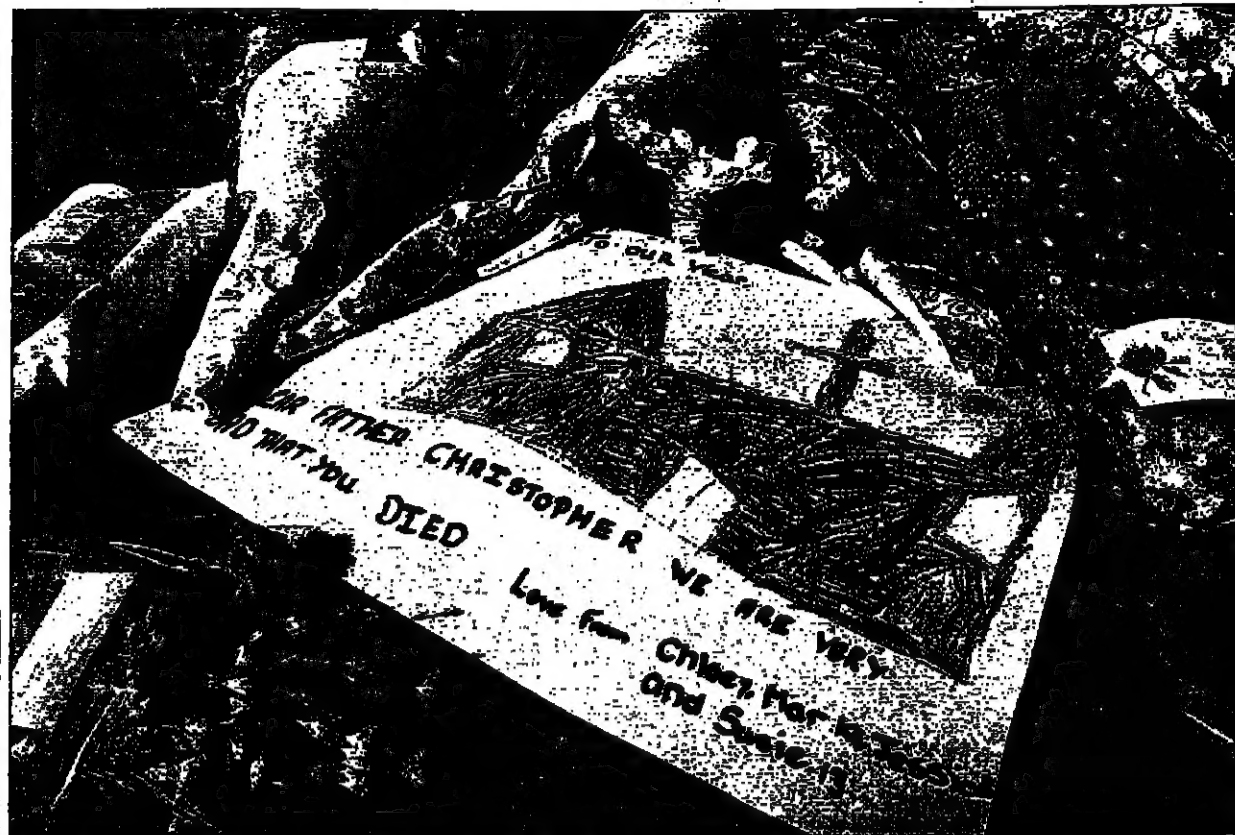
It emerged that Father Gray had been attacked while working in another Merseyside parish. In 1994 a man had been counselling for drug problems broke into his home and held him captive. He was later convicted of burglary and false imprisonment.

Across the city, friends and

colleague paid tribute to an intensely loyal colleague who was committed to his work in the inner city.

At his church, St Margaret's in Anfield, parishioners and pupils from the primary school laid flowers on a grass bank. One card carried only a question mark; a message from Cathi read "Brilliant but no good at pub quizzes".

Mr Gray, like his wife a retired doctor, told reporters: "To the academic community Christopher was a scholar of high repute, with a first class honours degree from Oxford and two post-graduate



Children's tribute to Father Gray (top left) among the flowers laid at St Margaret's Church, Anfield. PHOTOGRAPH DON MCFEES

degrees, one in philosophy, one in theology. [But] he never lost his common touch with people from all walks of life — anyone could talk to

him as a friend. To the diocese, he was a rising star."

Mr Gray said his son had told them of his vocation after leaving Oxford, when he had

already accepted a job at the Foreign Office.

"Christopher had no ambitions in the Church. He was willing to go where he was

sent and to do what he was asked to do. I think he probably felt that the city had great deprivation and there were many needs, some of which he felt he could cater to.

"He was happy in Liverpool. The jobs he did were jobs that were not immediately attractive. There were risks to his property and his life. He cheerfully accepted those.

"We were constantly aware of his risks, but there was nothing we could do to lessen them. It is a measure of his character that he chose to shield us from full knowledge of the risks he was taking."

He had "no feelings whatsoever" toward his son's killer.

On Wednesdays Father Gray would join Janet Arnold, his colleague in the diocese's evangelical group, in morning prayer at St Margaret's. Yesterday Sister Arnold led the prayers.

"He was very practical; in-

He never lost his common touch with people from all walks of life — anyone could talk to him as a friend. To the diocese, he was a rising star' Philip Gray, father

'He was an extraordinary son and I adored him' Margaret Gray, mother

'He was never naive — he knew the dangers and he accepted them. He was streetwise enough to know what was going on, to know when he was being duped by someone' Janet Arnold, colleague

rewards programme is the pest



Perhaps you need some more facts:

Inside Flyer magazine named Membership Rewards the Best Affinity Credit Card programme of 1996. "By a staggering majority, American Express comes first, wiping out all rivals..." "Once enrolled you can enjoy a great range of rewards — including complimentary flights through a choice of eight frequent flyer programmes. You gain points with virtually every purchase you make on the Charge, Credit or Corporate Card. These points don't expire as long as you're a Cardmember. Plus if you use the Card to book with our partners, you gain their programme points as well as valuable Membership Rewards Points. Any more questions?"

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* Inside Flyer, January/February 1996. American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ, Reg. No: 1833139.

Police struggle with violence

Peter Hetherington

JAMES Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside, admits his cut-throated force is struggling to contain violent crime in the county, which is running well ahead of the national average.

He wants the Home Office to adjust its funding formula, which will lead to almost 400 job losses over two years.

Mr Sharples said he was under "significant strain" in trying to cope. Violent crime in the county accounts for 2.5 per cent of all offences, and is rising, against a national level of 1.5 per cent. But Home Office funding is to be reduced by 10 per cent over the next two years.

Mr Sharples, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers, told the Guardian: "Violence and use of firearms has been going up, and the influence of the entrenched, organised gangs is rising. We're having to put more and more resources into that, having to deal with fairly serious firearms incidents, and gang warfare in Liverpool particularly."

He added that "dozens and dozens" of shooting incidents over the past 18 months had arisen from tension between organised criminal gangs.

Merseyside is at the same time having to reduce manpower by 10 per cent over two years under a Home Office formula, partly based on a

rapid population decline in the conurbation. That means 350 posts will go along with a further 40 civilian support staff, reducing manpower to 4,150.

Although the population is certain to fall further, Mr Sharples says the force's workload will inevitably rise.

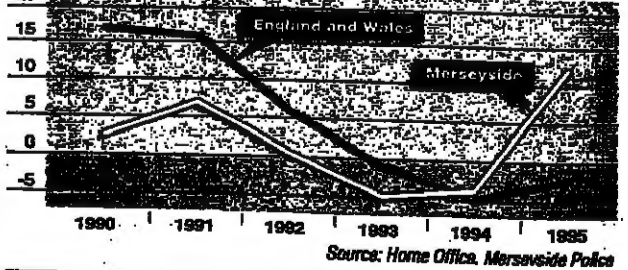
"Merseyside has got a considerable degree of social problems — bad housing, single parent families, poverty and so on. That doesn't necessarily create more of a policing problem. But where there are areas of social strain, that is often where there is a greater demand for a policing service. Although the population is decreasing, the demand for policing is actually increasing."

Targeting the seven main criminal gangs on Merseyside in a series of operations has meant diverting resources from other areas. Mr Sharples said the Home Office had to find a way of compensating forces like Merseyside during transition phases.

Part of the problem began in the for-it shootings after the murder of drugs dealer David Ungi in Tooten 15 months ago. That led to officers patrolling in reinforced armed response vehicles, openly displaying semi-automatic weapons.

Figures show crime in England and Wales dropped by 2.1 per cent over the last recorded year, but on Merseyside it rose by 12.1 per cent.

Bucking the trend



Attacks on clergy highlight Church's social dilemma

James Melke

THE murder of Christopher Gray and the serious wounding of another vicar follow mounting concern about violence towards the clergy.

The Rev Nduna Mpumzi, aged 50, vicar of the Church of St Mary's and All Saints in Walsall, West Midlands, suffered head injuries after an axe attack early on Tuesday.

He was in a stable condition last night after undergoing surgery. A Walsall man, aged 57, was charged last night with his attempted murder.

Annie Holden, spokeswoman for Lichfield diocese, in which Mr Mpumzi's church

is situated, said: "We are all concerned about security but we can't keep clergy behind locked doors. They are there to talk to the people."

A report published last May, Knocking on Heaven's Door, warned that clergy and their families were increasingly being threatened, abused and burgled.

John Gall, a north London vicar and chairman of the committee responsible for the report, said yesterday the Church was good at providing basic care for many in need. "What it perhaps has more difficulty with at local level is how to care for and deal with people who are violent, aggressive or have major problems such as mental illness."

كليات جامعة القاهرة



Unsolved murder haunts a small Cornish town

Investigation will reopen wounds, writes Geoffrey Gibbs

BAFFLEMENT, frustration and deep sadness hang over the small Cornish town of Launceston as local people await the arrival of French investigators hunting the killer of the schoolgirl. Caroline Dickinson, a bright and popular 13-year-old, was raped and suffocated during a school trip to Brittany three weeks ago. Her body was found on a mattress in the dormitory she was sharing with four other girls at a youth hostel in the village of Pleine Fougères near St Malo.

Staff and pupils have been receiving counselling since returning from the trip. It is feared that the presence of the French investigation team will reopen the wounds the community has been trying to heal, particularly as they are in the dark over plans to subject some of her classmates to DNA testing.

The mother of one of Caroline's close friends spoke yesterday of her concern at the likely impact of renewed questioning. Carole Mayne, an aerobics instructor, who works at the school, said: "Everybody wants the person who has done it to be caught. I don't think they should involve the children any more. They have had enough."

The investigation into Caroline's death was thrown into disarray last week when French police released Patrick Padé, a 39-year-old vagrant who had confessed to the crime. DNA tests showed he could not have committed the rape.

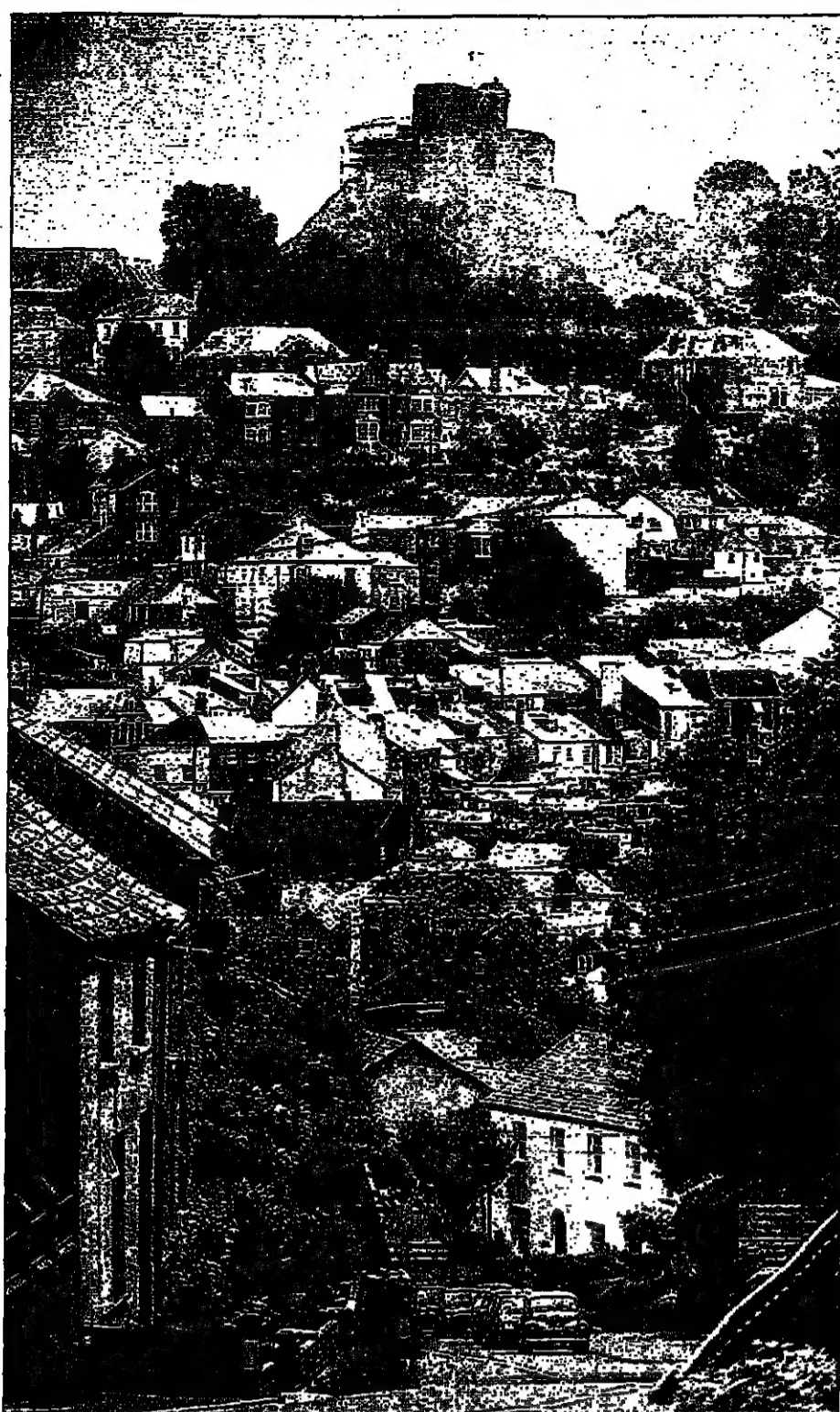
Gérard Zaig, the examining magistrate in charge of the case, has applied formally to the French Ministry of Justice to come to Britain.

Although he is known to want to DNA test five teenage boys who went to Pleine Fougères with the Launceston College party, Devon and Cornwall police and the Home Office have received no official communication of this from the French authorities.

Two male teachers and a bus driver with the party were tested before the school party left France.

Ms Mayne whose 13-year-old daughter, Victoria, did not go to Brittany, said news of Mr Padé's release and the talk of further interviews had been devastating. "All the children are going to be heartbroken. Just as they were trying to get over it, it's all back in the news again." Victoria, who had known Caroline for three or four years had been "in a hell of a state" since her friend's murder.

A spokesman for the Cornwall Education Authority said: "It is exasperating that even at this stage there is no indication of how many people [the French investigators] want to talk to."



Launceston is in shock from the killing of Caroline Dickinson, one of whose friends, Victoria Mayne, top left, with mother Carole, is 'in a hell of a state' PHOTOGRAPHS: TIM CLIFF

Police chiefs vote to cut drink limit

Vivok Chaudhary

THE Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) voted yesterday to support the lowering of the drink-drive limit, claiming it would lead to fewer deaths.

The decision by Acpo's traffic committee is expected to be ratified by the organisation's chief constables council in October. All 43 police forces in England and Wales were consulted before yesterday's unanimous decision.

Announcing support to lower the limit from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg, David Williams, chairman of the traffic committee said: "Acpo has consistently advised drivers not to drink any alcohol before driving, and this is still the case."

"What we are saying now is that the evidence available supports the belief that the 50mg limit would save more lives and at the same time be acceptable to the public."

"Attitudes towards drinking and driving have hardened since the original limit was set, largely thanks to public education and the success of government campaigns."

Mr Williams added that even if the Government did not lower the limit, the targeting of persistent drink-

drivers, and testing all drivers involved in accidents, would continue. Acpo was also looking to change the laws to give police more powers to target drink-drivers.

"Random breath tests have never been supported by the police but we need more powers than we have at the moment," said Mr Williams.

Acpo's stance is being backed by the British Medical Association and motoring organisations.

The transport minister, John Bawie, has already ruled out any change to the limit, claiming the current level is "fair and reasonable" and enjoyed wide public acceptance. He claimed that in countries where the limit is below 80mg, "there is no evidence they have a better record than we do."

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said yesterday that it would continue to keep the drink-drive limit under review but there were no plans to change it, despite Acpo's decision.

He added: "We think that we are at a sensible limit and have no immediate plans to change it. The number of drink-related deaths has fallen from 1,800 in 1979 to around 800 today. There's a fair degree of public understanding of the current limit and there is no reason to change it."

Convicted driver urges zero alcohol level to deter risk takers

DAVID Johnson knew he was over the limit after supping three pints in his local pub, but home was only two miles away and the worst that could have happened, he says, was that he might have been breathalysed, writes Vivok Chaudhary.

Said Mr Johnson (not his real name): "I never thought I was not fit to drive." As he left the pub for his Cleveland home three years ago, he approached a Pelican crossing. "It was green and the next thing I knew, the windscreen had shattered. When I recovered from the shock I was told I had killed three women. I went from a normal life into a nightmare within seconds."

Mr Johnson, a research scientist, was found to be nearly twice above the legal limit and was convicted of careless driving and sentenced to three years imprisonment. He was released on parole after 18 months. When he left prison he received death threats and was told by police to leave his home for his own safety. He now lives 70 miles from his family and fears neighbours might find out about his drink-driving conviction. "I certainly contemplated suicide," Mr Johnson said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. "That I'd made children orphans, I will regret it for the rest of my life."

Mr Johnson still enjoys a drink in his local pub but claims despite the law and yesterday's decision by Acpo, drink-driving is still endemic and partially accepted in society. "They should put the limit at nothing. Anything else gives people the idea they can drink and get away with it, which my case proves, you can't."

Critic of Hume's links with Sinn Fein president threatens to resign over series of attacks

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE Social Democratic and Labour Party's internal divisions became apparent yesterday when a West Belfast councillor launched a stinging attack on party leader John Hume.

Hugh Lewsley, who repre-

sents the staunchly republican Twinklbrook estate, was speaking after his house was attacked early yesterday. On Tuesday evening he spoke out against punishment beatings in a Channel 4 documentary.

Mr Lewsley has been a constant critic of the rough justice meted out by the IRA in his area. Last July he was savagely beaten and claimed

to recognise a number of republicans among the gang. But Sinn Fein denied republican involvement and Mr Lewsley, according to Mr Lewsley, accepted their denials.

Yesterday's attack, however, seems to have been the last straw for Mr Lewsley who sits in a camp within the SDLP which is critical of Hume's close contact with the

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams. "I am seriously calling upon my leader to engage in a process with Gerry Adams to stop republican attacks on me. If I don't get support from the leadership of my party and they don't condemn this situation strongly enough then I will resign my seat as an SDLP councillor."

Mr Hume's office said he was on holiday and unavailable for comment, but his aide Mark Durkan said: "I can understand Hugh's sense of hurt and frustration but it is completely misplaced to try to direct it at John Hume."

Mr Lewsley's outburst comes at a critical moment for the SDLP which is still reeling from the electoral in-

roads made by Sinn Fein in its traditional vote at the May 30 elections. Some SDLP members believe Mr Hume's strategy of bringing Sinn Fein in from the cold has not brought a permanent peace any nearer and has only strengthened the extreme wing of nationalism, thus weakening their own position.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Peace pact falters in Chechenia

James Meek in Moscow

A CEASEFIRE in the Chechen capital Grozny seemed likely to collapse last night, despite an apparent fall-off in fighting, after Russia's top military commander in the region accused rebel snipers of shooting eight of his men through the head and vowed to clear them from the city.

Lieutenant-General Konstantin Pulikovskiy told Interfax news agency that his envoy had passed on to rebels his "protest and indignation at their actions".

"I do not intend to make any further agreements with the rebel fighters," he said. He was absolving himself of any responsibility for further escalation of the conflict and the operation to "destroy" the rebels in Grozny would continue.

Earlier — after denying rebel reports of a truce — he admitted that he had agreed informally with the rebel military leader Aslan Maskhadov that Russian troops would not open fire unless provoked.

Separatist sources reported only sporadic shooting on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

But rebel commanders say they have no intention of leaving the city, much of which they control after nine days of fighting.

It was always unlikely that Moscow would agree to talks with the separatists until their fighters left or were forced out of Grozny.

The rebels accused Russian helicopters of unleashing rockets on refugees leaving Grozny after the rebel military began at midday yesterday. One report said 10 refugees were killed. The rebels also

reported a Russian air attack in southern Chechenia at 7.30pm yesterday.

The Moscow-backed Chechen civilian administration said that on Tuesday a Russian aircraft fired on a truck transporting refugees 30 miles east of Grozny, killing 29 people. Another air attack on a funeral had killed six, the rebels said.

A Russian government aid agency said 15,000 refugees had already fled Grozny. Eyewitness reports suggest that refugees and armed rebels often use the same routes and Russian soldiers have repeatedly shown that — given a choice between causing civilian deaths and letting suspected rebels escape — they will shoot, even in heavily built-up areas.

The rebel side said Gen Pulikovskiy's initial denial that he had reached an agreement with Gen Maskhadov showed that a pro-war faction in Moscow had been alarmed by the prospect of peace raised by the recent visit to the republic of the Russian national security adviser, Alexander Lebed.

"Alexander Lebed's peace initiative has panicked those forces in Moscow which stand behind this dirty war, who are afraid of taking responsibility for these bloody crimes they have committed in Chechenia," Gen Maskhadov said.

Last night the commercial Russian television channel NTV said that President Boris Yeltsin had signed a new decree setting out new measures to end the Chechen conflict. It was not immediately clear whether this was the decree which Gen Lebed had recent visit to the republic of the Russian national security adviser, Alexander Lebed.

The clashes occurred less than an hour after the funeral of Tasos Isaac, a Greek Cypriot aged 24, who was beaten to death during a demonstration on Sunday.

Hundreds of young mourners marched to the UN's buffer zone at Dherinya. The Greek Cypriot police and military forces failed to hold back the demonstrators and large numbers headed to the no man's land, from where the Turkish troops and Turkish Cypriot police could be seen.

The unarmed UN peacekeepers in their blue helmets had formed a human chain and seemed to be controlling the situation.



Unknown soldiers... A Chechen fighter walks past Russian soldiers killed in street fights in Grozny this week. A ceasefire appeared to be faltering yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT IONIA

Greek Cypriot killed as violence erupts in buffer zone

Chris Drake in Nicosia

A GREEK Cypriot was killed and two unarmed British soldiers serving with the UN peacekeeping force were wounded yesterday in clashes which erupted after the killing of another Greek Cypriot in the buffer zone between the island's Greek and Turkish communities.

The soldiers, members of 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, had been sent to the south-east of the island as reinforcements to the Austrian contingent. They were not seriously hurt.

Suddenly Solomos Spyrou, a bearded man dressed in black, ran to the Turkish ceasefire line.

A UN soldier chased and grabbed him, but he broke free and began climbing a Turkish flagpole.

From behind the Turkish lines shots rang out and he fell dead, a cigarette still in the corner of his mouth. Then more shots came from the same area and there was panic.

The British soldiers took cover as the demonstrators fled. There was a shout from one soldier for an ambulance, but even as it arrived, some Greek Cypriots returned to try to reach the

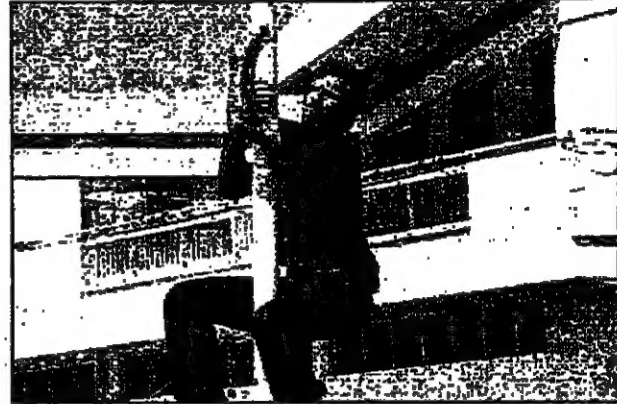
Turkish line. They had to be restrained by the UN soldiers.

One demonstrator was seen threatening a soldier with a large wooden club. The shooting convinced most of the demonstrators to keep their distance and move back behind their own police barriers.

Within hours, the UN had protested to the Turkish forces in the north against what it described as a "completely unwarranted reaction".

The dead man, aged 26, was a refugee from Turkish-occupied Famagusta. He had been living in Paralimni and knew Isaac.

Solomos Spyrou broke free from UN soldiers to climb this flagpole and was shot dead from behind Turkish lines



Solomos Spyrou broke free from UN soldiers to climb this flagpole and was shot dead from behind Turkish lines

Gaullists try to keep corruption a closed book

But a determined French author has discovered that foul play is rife at the highest level, writes Paul Webster

THE few examining magistrates and investigative journalists who reveal high-level corruption in France face an uphill battle against a Gaullist administration determined to protect politicians and businessmen.

Le Caudat Enchaîné, the country's leading anti-corruption campaigner, described Jacques Chirac's lack of hypocrisy as almost praiseworthy after Gaullist officials were appointed to the top public prosecution offices where they have shelved scandals with the wave of the hand.

But this has added to the credibility of a surprise best-selling book which highlights top-level complicity about institutionalised fraud.

Pendant les Affaires, les Affaires Continuent (business as usual despite the scandals), by the former investigative reporter Denis Robert, aged 38, names names and examines why so few people involved in the widespread corruption of French officialdom and business are called to account.

"One of my informants told me that 89 per cent of national and local government contracts... depend on commissions or backhanders. But of the dozens of businessmen accused of corruption, none has been sentenced," he said.

"Despite Mr Chirac's campaign promise to ensure an independent judicial system, this is impossible when public prosecutors act as political commissars."

Some internationally known firms, including Bouygues, Lyonnaise des Eaux, Dassault, Elf-Aquitaine, Alcatel and, above all, Crédit Lyonnais, are among scores of companies under investigation in connection with possible illegal party funding or the personal enrichment of ministers.

But legal action depends almost entirely on a few courageous examining magistrates acting independently.

Even after convictions, the protection of politicians reflects official indulgence. Bernard Tapie, the former owner of Marseille football club, is still an MP and MEP despite many court appearances concerning fraud. A Gaullist former minister, Alain Carignon, remains chairman of the Rhône-Alpes government while in jail awaiting the result of an appeal against fraud charges.

The book has shed light largely due to public frustration at the limited exposure of corruption by the media.

"My book was commissioned by Flon but they dropped out at the last minute because of links with companies named as accomplices and lucrative book contracts with politicians suspected of corruption," Mr Robert said.

"Luckily, Stock took over, but the book has been ignored by most of the influential press, notably Le Figaro."

He resigned from the newspaper Liberation when it was sold to a conglomerate owned by the Seydoux family, who helped finance former president François Mitterrand's election campaign.

He believes journalists have come to terms with institutionalised fraud which, according to one of his best-placed informers, involves a highly organised flow of kick-back cash being ferried to fiscal havens in Switzerland and the British Isles.

Even the odd, supposed Mr Clesca is entangled in the book.

Henri Emmanuelli, the former Socialist Party leader who arranged Mr Mitterrand's election fund, just failed to become the national candidate last year. Had he won, he would now be under pressure to say why he concealed the purchase of a villa in Spain.

But under the present judicial system, a prosecution would be just as unlikely as in the case of dubious property deals affecting Mr Chirac, his prime minister, Alain Juppé, and many of their friends.



Bernard Tapie: remains MP and MEP despite scandals

India scuppers test ban treaty

Stephen Young

AS EXPECTED, India yesterday blocked the long-delayed global nuclear test ban treaty.

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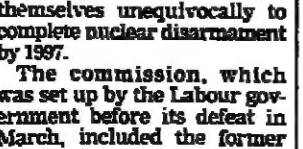
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has blocked the treaty on those grounds.

The question is, how did negotiators reach this impasse, and what can be done about it?

The simplest solution would be to alter the EIP formula so that India is not required to sign. However, Russia and China appear adamant about keeping the current formula.

While all the negotiators support the goal of having the eight countries on board, most

opposed the requirement for their signatures, particularly after India stated it would not sign. Some diplomats questioned the commitment of those states to a test ban, since an all-or-nothing approach seemed needlessly high-risk.

Other options will now have to be considered.

The most likely scenario is that "friends of the treaty" will take it to the United Nations. The UN could then

approve the treaty and open it for signature.

This route, however, has no guarantee of success. Without the CD's approval, any treaty taken to the UN would be open to amendment. Many countries, particularly from the non-aligned movement, have substantial difficulties with the CTBT text and could offer amendments that might then make the treaty unacceptable to the nuclear states.

There are possible solutions.

The international community committed itself to achieving the treaty this year at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference last year in New York. It would prevent the development of new weapons and halt damage to the environment caused by tests.

The question now is whether the nuclear powers will find the political will to achieve it.

Stephen Young is a senior analyst at the British American Security Information Council, an international research organisation based in London and Washington. He has just returned from the negotiations in Geneva.

News in brief

Mini-state to be dissolved

The presidents of Croatia and Bosnia agreed in Geneva yesterday on a series of measures to dissolve Hercegovina, the Bosnian Croat mini-state within Bosnia.

A joint statement issued after a day of US-hosted talks said that from August 31 administrative areas under Bosnian Croat control would "cease to exist". — Reuters.

Rats in river

Thousands of dead rats have been found floating in a river in the north-east Indian state of Assam, frightening people from fishing and drawing water, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Bucharest accord

Romania and Hungary announced in Bucharest yesterday that they have reached agreement on the final text of a basic treaty, meant to bring to an end decades of verbal conflict between them, writes Nick Thorpe in Budapest.

Saudis 'confess'

A Saudi opposition group claimed yesterday that six Muslim militants had been arrested and had confessed to the lorry bombing in June which killed 19 US airmen in eastern Saudi Arabia. Neither Saudi nor US officials have announced any arrests. — AP.

Berlin shooting

A Berlin policeman shot himself in the backside yesterday when a spent cartridge ejected from a fellow officer's pistol hit him on the neck during firing practice.

Jail term call

Prosecutors in Hamburg demanded the maximum five-year jail sentence yesterday for the US neo-Nazi leader

Gary Lauck, accused of swamping Germany with extremist rightwing propaganda over 20 years. — Reuters.

Aliens trapped

Nearly 2,000 foreigners were trapped in Mongolia after officials sealed off parts of the north following an outbreak of cholera that has left six people dead and infected at least 54, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Editors arrested

Two editors of the opposition weekly magazine The News, Bayo Olanuga and Babafemi Ojudin, have been arrested by the Nigerian security authorities, a human rights group said. The magazine said that the oil minister, Dan Steta, was unaccountable because of his closeness to the military ruler, General Sani Abacha. — Reuters.

Japan's apology

The first three women to accept 2 million yen (£10,000) compensation each from Japanese private fund for being forced into sexual slavery in the second world war received letters of apology yesterday from Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto. — AP.

Islamic victims

Algerian security agents have killed six Islamic militants who may have been involved in the killing of a Roman Catholic bishop earlier this month, the newspaper El Watan reported. Police killed five militants in a raid on an abandoned residence near the outskirts of Oran, 220 miles west of Algiers, and a sixth in central Oran. — AP.

Corsica blast

A booby-trapped parcel exploded yesterday in front of the law courts building in central Ajaccio, Corsica, causing significant damage but no injuries, police said. The building is a frequent target of bombing attacks by Corsican separatists seeking greater autonomy. — Reuters.

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Cut nuclear stockpiles, report urges

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

BRTAIN and the other nuclear powers should cut their weapons stockpiles as a matter of urgency, an international report published yesterday advises.

Highlighting the threat of terrorism and nuclear proliferation, the report from the multinational Canberra Commission for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons said the end of the cold war provided a uniquely favourable moment "to do away with all nuclear weapons."

The report also called on the United States and Russia to take their nuclear forces off a state of alert.

The 17 scientists, statesmen and former cold war warriors urged the five declared nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — to commit themselves unequivocally to complete nuclear disarmament by 1997.

The commission, which was set up by the Labour government before its defeat in March, included the former US defence secretary Robert McNamara and the former

French prime minister Michel Rocard.

It raised doubts about the control and security of Russia's nuclear arsenal and said the danger of terrorist groups acquiring nuclear weapons or material was "a growing threat to the international community."

It warned: "Political upheaval or the weakening of state authority in a nuclear weapon state could cripple existing systems for ensuring the safe handling and control of nuclear weapons."

The chairman, the Oxford professor Robert O'Neill, said: "Nuclear weapons were quintessential weapons of the cold war and the cold war is over. Nuclear weapons no longer have a balancing role."

He said it was only a matter of time before a terrorist group managed to steal a nuclear warhead and detonate it somewhere over the US.

"It's something the American people have to think about very hard."

Australia is due to present the report to the United Nations General Assembly in September and the Conference on Disarmament in 1997.

Mr Howard thanked the committee, which also included a former commander in chief of the US nuclear forces, General Lee Butler, and the British scientist and Nobel peace laureate Joseph Rotblat.

"A world free of the threat of superpower confrontation is not only a common goal of both sides of politics in Australia but a common goal of mankind around the world," Mr Howard said.

The commission said the end of superpower confrontation had not removed the danger of nuclear catastrophe, because the risk of accidents had increased.

If the ranks of the declared and undeclared nuclear states increased even by one, the commission said, there would be a high risk of a chain reaction of proliferation.

OnLine, G2 page 10

سكان من الاجل

Since the coup, thousands of civilians have died

Hutus slaughtered in military assault

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

BURUNDI'S overwhelmingly Tutsi army has killed several thousand civilians since the military coup three weeks ago.

Its offensive against Hutus has concentrated on a swath of territory across the centre of the country, as well as land bordering rebel camps in Zaire.

Survivors accuse the army of using mortars and heavy weapons in attacks on groups of unarmed women, children and men, with no insurgents in sight.

A foreign official who works closely with Burundi's army said he had no doubt that when Major Pierre Buyoya seized power late last month the military took it as a signal for a new assault on Hutu rebels and civilians alike.

"It's clear this is more than the retaliation against civilians we had before. The army has taken on thousands of recruits and there's an operation in blocks of the country to clear people out," he said.

"They are not going from hill to hill killing people. The army says it is killing rebels, but the problem is soldiers see Hutu civilians and rebels

as one and the same, and that's how they treat them."

The continuing bloodshed will do little to help Maj Buyoya win over neighbouring governments, despite his announcement that he will soon appoint a new civilian parliament and that within three years he will bring in some kind of democratic rule.

Burundi has won just one concession from countries imposing the regional blockade which has shut off international flights and closed land borders: United Nations aid convoys arrived from Tanzania yesterday, the first since sanctions were imposed.

In a sign of increasing militarisation, Maj Buyoya has replaced four civilian regional governors with army officers.

Among those removed from office is the governor of Gitega province, where much of the killing is taking place. Tharcisse Ndirabarirana, a Hutu, had publicly condemned a massacre of Hutu students by their Tutsi classmates while the army stood by.

The military has been tied to other massacres in the province. Survivors of assaults in Gitega commune, in eastern Gitega, say an army attack launched two days after the coup is continuing. Victims accuse the military of

shelling people who have fled their villages and sought shelter on hillsides.

Although independent verification of death tolls is almost impossible, foreign human rights workers say they believe the violence in Gitega province alone has claimed more than a thousand lives. Last night hill-sides in Gitega, set alight by the army, were still burning amid reports of more killings.

Some survivors say they believe the army is attempting to carve out safe areas for Tutsi peasants by clearing Hutus from their land.

The head of military intelligence, Colonel Jean-Bosco Baradangwe, denied that a co-ordinated offensive had been launched but did admit civilians were dying.

"The army's sometimes undisciplined. There are deplorable situations at times. But we formed a commission to find out what was going on and there's two officers in prison for that now," he said.

"The acts of indiscipline are just isolated incidents, so people don't have to be afraid of the army as a whole."

"With the arrival of Buyoya, who knows the army well, there will be more discipline. The tension between the army and the people is dissipating quickly. We see it everywhere."



Anwar Hussain, aged 10, the sole earner in his family after his father's death from food poisoning, learns his father's trade from a friend in Bhiwandi, north of Bombay, yesterday. Police said the owner of the canteen where the poisoning occurred had refused to raise food prices in line with other eateries

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION: Delegates pray their man can deliver speech of his life

Dole woos soldiers and odd bedfellows

The nominee's selection must now be justified, writes Martin Walker

THE generally morose and taciturn Bob Dole must lift his party and stamp his candidacy upon a distracted country with the speech of his life as he formally accepts the Republican presidential nomination tonight.

The modest bounce the Republicans have seen so far in the opinion polls has been due to the choice of Jack Kemp as vice-presidential candidate and the parading of its illustrious new recruit, retired general Colin Powell.

Now the party returns to the reality of an uphill campaign led by Mr Dole.

His message of tax cuts, patriotism and moral character was trailed yesterday as he spoke to a delegation of Vietnam veterans, flanked by banners with his campaign slogan "A better man for a better America".

"We have to get this

country moving again, get it growing again, get the taxes down and lift our families up," he said as his wife, Elizabeth, prepared her own address, billed as the highlight of last night's session.

Having stressed the contrast between the war veteran Mr Dole and the draft-dodging President Clinton, the Republicans now want to contrast Mrs Dole, a veteran of the Reagan and Bush cabinets, with Hillary Clinton.

The main business of the convention yesterday was the formal speeches of nomination for the unopposed Mr Dole. Again it reflected the patriotic theme, with the top slot going to a Vietnam war hero and former prisoner-of-war, Senator John McCain of Arizona.

With the latest polls showing Mr Clinton leading by between 13 and 19 points, Mr Dole has to justify his candidacy. The Republicans are becoming hopeful that with Mr Kemp, Gen Powell and tax cuts in their armoury they may yet maintain control of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Expectations for the Dole speech have been raised but he is no orator and may well

be overshadowed by the verbal pyrotechnics of Mr Kemp. Indeed, chants of "Kemp-Dole" have already been heard in the convention hall.

Although the ideological fissures remain, the Republicans are united in their loathing of Mr Clinton, and they thrilled to the ferocious attacks unleashed upon him this week.

"America, it is time to wake up to President Clinton and his high-taxing, free-spending, promise-breaking, social security-taxing, health care-socialising, drug-coddling, power-grabbing, business-busting, lawsuit-loving, UN-following, FBI-abusing, \$200-haircutting, gas-taxing, over-regulating, bureaucracy-trusting, class-baiting, privacy-violating, values-crushing, truth-dodging, Medicare-forsaking, property rights-taking, job-destroying friends."

"And that's just in the White House," concluded the Texas senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, in the best-received Clinton-bashing speech of a day.

The keynote speech of the New York congresswoman Susan Molinari was memorable more for the appearance of her baby daughter than for the wear, rhetoric of the American Dream.

"America knows that Bill Clinton's promises have the life-span of a Big Mac on Air Force One," was her best line in an effort which did not stir the hall much but locked impulsive on the television screen, the main concern of the convention planners.

One of a parade of women and black and Hispanic delegates designed to make the party appear more diverse, Mrs Molinari was interrupted by a brief flurry of catcalls from anti-abortion delegates, even though she did not mention her pro-choice beliefs.

The speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, also had a prop. A golden retriever joined him for a speech which was greeted by a carefully rehearsed "spontaneous" demonstration for which "We Love Newt" posters had been distributed around the hall.

But in seeking to soften his image, and also wheeled out America's Olympic gold medalist in beach volleyball, "No bureaucrat could have invented this sport," Mr Gingrich proclaimed.

Ms Molinari was interrupted by a Los Angeles Times was quick to point out, California's beach volleyball courts were built by the state and county recreation departments.



Susan Molinari: speech upstaged by her baby

ing, promise-breaking, social security-taxing, health care-socialising, drug-coddling, power-grabbing, business-busting, lawsuit-loving, UN-following, FBI-abusing, \$200-haircutting, gas-taxing, over-regulating, bureaucracy-trusting, class-baiting, privacy-violating, values-crushing, truth-dodging, Medicare-forsaking, property rights-taking, job-destroying friends.

The tent is not big enough for camp followers, writes Jonathan Freedland

IT CERTAINLY looks like a big tent. But it's not big enough for the 10,000 members of the Republican Party's milkiest group: the Log Cabin association of lesbian and gays.

They have been holding their own convention in San Diego, a gesture of protest at the party's failure to provide a sufficiently "big tent" to accommodate everyone. The phrase appears in their speeches and on lapel stickers, a two-word plea for acceptance.

"You don't have to embrace us — we're not touchy-feely Democrats — just don't bash us," says the group's spokesman, David Greer.

It's a tall order in a party which includes America's loudest anti-gay campaigners and whose new manifesto demands a ban on gay marriages.

The Log Cabin Republicans pay tribute to the humble origins of the party's founder, Abraham Lincoln. His battle was against slavery and for basic human rights, not the rights of homosexuals, say they are locked in a struggle for nothing less.

The Log Cabiners say they are Republicans for the same reasons as anyone else: they believe in lower taxes and a smaller government. Many earn above-average incomes and run their own businesses. Just because they have a different stance on sexuality rights, not the group's refusal to back George Bush in 1992. "But how can we endorse a guy who has capitulated time after time to the extreme right?"

for gays. "The roots of our party are that people have inalienable rights," says a Californian activist, Borden Moller. Republicans, he says, aim to keep government out of people's wallets and their bedrooms, whether they're gay or straight.

Many in the Log Cabin look to the libertarian Barry Goldwater, the Republican nominee of 1964. Now in his eighties, Mr Goldwater is an outspoken supporter of gay rights and was one of the few Republicans to back President Clinton's 1993 effort to lift the ban on gays in the military.

The president eventually buckled under a campaign led — as gay Republicans are quick to point out — by Democrats in Congress, not Republicans.

American homosexuals, who had voted overwhelmingly for Mr Clinton in 1992, became disenchanted. Two years later, up to a third of gays were voting Republican.

Now that trend could be reversed once again. It was a Republican effort that led to this year's Defence of Marriage Act, banning same-sex unions. "That was an anti-gay vote, inspired by an animus of hatred," says Mr Greer.

Members of the Log Cabin refused at first to endorse Bob Dole. They said they would only back him if he explicitly asked for their support; if he didn't, they would consider themselves snubbed. Mr Dole has met them half way, letting them know he would "welcome" an endorsement if one were offered.

David Greer explains the dilemma. "Our credibility as Republicans is jeopardised if we don't endorse for a second time," he says, referring to the group's refusal to back George Bush in 1992. "But how can we endorse a guy who has capitulated time after time to the extreme right?"

News in brief

Nigeria opens door to Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH countries are consulting on a Nigerian offer to receive a group of foreign ministers to discuss conditions for the restoration of the country's Commonwealth membership. This was suspended last year after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other activists in the Ogoni region.

Nigeria has been told that the timing — the end of this month — is acceptable. But the Nigerians, according to press reports in Lagos, have suggested formal talks in the capital with General Sani Abacha, the country's military ruler, and ministers, which would not meet the conditions laid down by the Commonwealth.

The foreign ministers are believed to have asked previously to be allowed to see prominent detainees such as Mushoh Abiola, the presumed winner of a 1993 presidential election annulled by the military, and General Oluasegun Obasanjo, imprisoned for alleged coup plotting. — *Foreign staff*

US troops let Mladic go

UNITED STATES troops ducked an apparent opportunity to confront General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander wanted for war crimes, it emerged yesterday.

Nato said that on Saturday when a team of US weapons inspectors arrived in Han Pijesak, Gen Mladic's headquarters, and demanded to inspect an arms dump, they were told Gen Mladic was present and would escort them around the site.

The Nato-led peace implementation force (I-Por) is mandated to arrest suspected war criminals if encountered in the course of normal duties. Major-General John Sylvester said yesterday that the team decided that it was "not prudent" to confront the general as the patrol was only seven strong. — *Julian Borger, Zagreb*

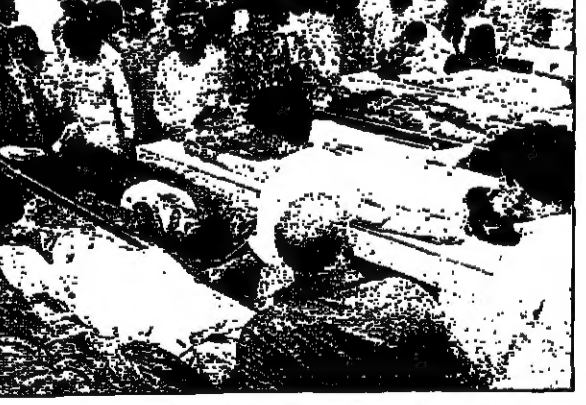
Internet 'police' launched

SINGAPORE hopes to block pornography and other banned material from the Internet next month by launching a system to police cyberspace.

The "proxy server" is the first censorship weapon unveiled by the government since it announced last month that Internet users were banned from criticising the government, showing pornography and discussing race and religion.

From September 15, Internet providers must channel the country's 120,000 subscribers through the servers, preventing them from seeing about a dozen sites, said Ahmad Suhaimi, a spokesman for the Singapore Broadcasting Authority. — *AP, Singapore*

Massacre at Sunni rally



FAMILIES are brought into a Karachi mortuary to identify the victims of gunmen who killed 12 people and wounded 11 in an attack yesterday on a militant Sunni Muslim procession celebrating Pakistan's independence day.

Bullets were sprayed at a cavalcade of vehicles taking supporters of the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) group to the rally in eastern Karachi.

The chief minister of Sindh province, Abdullah Shah, said the attack was "organised by a religious group", which he declined to name.

The SSP has long had a feud with Pakistan's Shi'ite Muslim minority, especially the militant Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan group. — *Reuter, Karachi*

PHOTOGRAPH: SAIED AHMED

New Zealand 'spying on Japan and the Pacific'

RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR

BITAIN receives secret intelligence on Japan and targets in the South Pacific from New Zealand as part of a global eavesdropping network dominated by the US National Security Agency, it was revealed yesterday.

The disclosure — which was greeted with an embarrassed silence by those involved in the spying activities — is made in Secret Power, a book written by Nicky Hager, a veteran anti-nuclear campaigner. He interviewed past and present employees of New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau, the equivalent of GCHQ, Britain's electronic intelligence-gathering centre in Cheltenham.

New Zealand electronic spy bases pick up the political, military, economic, and civil-

ian communications of Japan and South Pacific island countries, as well as monitoring Chinese and Russian activities in the region, including Russian bases in Antarctica, according to Mr Hager.

The intercepts are routinely passed on to the National Security Agency, GCHQ, and their Canadian and Australian partners in the secret Ukusa signals intelligence agreement signed in 1948.

They are picked up by a worldwide system, code-named Echelon, developed by the US, computers are programmed to pick up messages containing a key word or the numbers of civilian and military targets.

Telephone calls, faxes, and communications on the Internet are covered.

The Guardian first revealed in 1991 that GCHQ was involved in the computer identification system, known as The Dictionary.

vides a forward to the book, said he was unaware of international spying network.

Jim Bolger, the New Zealand prime minister, refused to comment yesterday.

About a third of the GCSB's analysts spy on Japanese commercial and diplomatic traffic, according to Mr Hager.

He adds that the GCSB also spies on "any country in fact that the foreign allies [linked through Ukusa] ask it to".

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Telephone calls, faxes, and communications on the Internet are covered.

The Guardian first revealed in 1991 that GCHQ was involved in the computer identification system, known as The Dictionary.

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"For years the Allen's Tropical Butterfly Garden has been a mecca for nature lovers. Then some upholder of officialdom decided that to protect the public it must be registered under the 1981 Zoo Licensing Act."

SEE PAGE FIVE

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE appearance at centre stage of Dame Jill Knight, cerebral MP for Edgobaston and one of those who voted against a handgun ban, has unearthed a modern miracle: Dame Jill is at least four years younger than her twin brother. He is 73, and she is 68 or 69 (she immatures all the time, and may well be 12 by the middle of next week). A newspaper cutting reveals that, as recently as 1980, both twins were born in 1923 — the date that appears in early editions of Who's Who. In later editions, however, Dame Jill arrived in 1927. So has Dame Jill discovered the secret of time travel, or is this evidence that the technique of twins being born years apart was not pioneered last year, as was thought, but in the 1920s? This may explain Dame Jill's uncanny insight into embryology. She recently crystallised the dangers of long-term freezing by saying, in a housewife, she well knows how difficult it is to make a pie from "pastry left in a deep freeze for longer than six months". How comforting for those who share a thing as firearm legislation is entrusted to so profound a moral and political thinker.

A SOLDIER has been found who does not share the military passion for acronyms. He is Major John Whitman, of the Army's Individual Training Organisation in Wiltshire. Major Whitman's title is Military Assistant Director General Individual Training.

FROM south-east London comes the most exciting news to hit the keep-fit industry since Jane Fonda discovered the burn. Charles Ericson, of the BNP Belmarsh, the man described as Britain's most violent prisoner, is working on a book called Solitary Fitness. Mr Ericson is extremely fit. He recently smashed the world record for sit-ups performed with a medicine ball (he gave to him as "best pal"). His next attempt will be for press-ups with a prison officer sitting on back.

TELEGRAPH enforcer Boris the Jackal Johnson is on a versatile form on a versatile Beatle in the Oasis debate, and the next using his column to plug a series of his own interviews on Radio 4's The World Tonight. "Be there, or be under the new M25 flyover" as the jingle might put it. It is not long since the Jackal used that same column to ask the voters of Clwyd South for their votes... a declaration of his candidacy that means, under electoral convention, that his rivals must all have equal media exposure. I look forward to the sitting Labour MP, the LibDem, and possibly the Diary itself (no decision has yet been taken on whether to stand in Clwyd South) being invited to join in questioning the likes of Lord Howe.

IN second thoughts, we will place this matter in the hands of Nick Hawkins, Tory MP for Blackpool South but now chuck-chuck-clucking along to safe Surrey in time for the election. Mr Hawkins has sent Labour's Susan Jones a letter — dated November 13 1996 (he must be a member of Dame Jill's time-travel club) — threatening to report her to the Privileges Committee for having the words "parliamentary spokesperson for Surrey Heath" on her letterhead. This formula (adopted by Walworth Road Constituency Candidate) is a declaration of candidacy, so he claims. If he gets his knickers in such a twist about that, God knows what he'll do to the Jackal.

IN New Zealand, a High Court judge has attacked falling standards. "What is the world coming to," asked Mr Justice Morris, "when a gang of thieves turn up at a place they are going to rob in a taxi? One reason you were apprehended is that you had no getaway car... I do not know what the state of the country is coming to." Both defendants, illegal immigrants from Fiji, got five years for the raid on a jewellers. Let us hope they get the usual tuition inside, and come out much improved in their field.



Something nasty in the vegetable plot

Commentary George Monbiot

PLANT breeders are dream merchants. There is a trade in impossible fantasy, transformed into scarcely more credible reality. This week we learnt that strawberries are now all but impossible to find. What we see in the supermarkets is, for some fruit and vegetable species, just about all there is. It's sad, you may think, but scarcely surprising. The market is maturing, and maturation means concentration and economy of scale. If vast numbers of people are to be adequately fed, then food production must take place on a vast scale. Were there a mass market for Hedgehog Pears, then Hedgehog Pears would doubtless be crumming Tesco's shelves.

blossomed in Britain, we have gained some hundreds of new varieties, and lost some thousands of old ones. The wizard and wonderful breeds our grandparents knew — Potato Indios, Fige Snout Apples, Hedgehog Pears — are now all but impossible to find. What we see in the supermarkets is, for some fruit and vegetable species, just about all there is. It's sad, you may think, but scarcely surprising. The market is maturing, and maturation means concentration and economy of scale. If vast numbers of people are to be adequately fed, then food production must take place on a vast scale. Were there a mass market for Hedgehog Pears, then Hedgehog Pears would doubtless be crumming Tesco's shelves.

our asinine farm legislation, with good intentions. Plant breeders could spend decades developing a disease-resistant radish or a new hard-milling wheat, only to see other traders multiplying it and selling it as their own. Sharpshooters would pass off inferior seed as a brilliant new variety, and their hapless clients wouldn't know whether they had bought a beanstalk to the giant's kingdom or a shrivelled stick, until the trader was over the horizon. But even as the first Plant Varieties and Seeds Bill passed through Parliament in 1964, it became clear that the legislators' intentions had already been subverted. Instead of protecting both buyers and sellers of seed, the bill concentrated only on the interests of some of the sellers. As more and more of the trade has subsequently been swallowed up by a few vast petrochemical and food-processing companies, the noise has tightened every time the law has been revised.

handful of seeds for a box of eggs. To get on to the National List, a plant variety must pass a series of rigorous tests. It must be deemed distinct from all other varieties. It must produce a uniform and true-breeding crop, and, for some species, it must be of commercial value. If it qualifies, the person seeking to register it must pay a fee — generally around £2,000, plus £30 for every year it stays on the list. At a stroke, thousands of varieties were ruled outside the law. Many were distinct, but were not recognised as such by the inspectors. Others had been bred *not* to be uniform, but to produce a crop which didn't need to be harvested all at once. Seeds deemed to be of little commercial value to farmers were of great non-commercial value to gardeners. The fees rendered specialist seeds invisible, and put many of the smaller breeders out of business. The loss of old varieties threatens not only to obliterate the past, but also to manipulate the future. Just as the idea of widespread organic farming in Britain gains credibility, we are losing the crops which flourish without great doses of pesticide and fertiliser.

that buying a new breed is beginning to look like a Faustian pact. This year, new legislation entitled plant breeders to claim royalties from people growing seed for their own use. If, in other words, you let your lettuce run to seed, and that seed to plant next year, the company you bought the packet from can demand to be paid. As big corporations engulf smaller corporations, and take control not only of seed production, but also of pesticide and fertiliser manufacture, food processing and the wholesale trade, there's a danger that farmers could soon be reduced to little more than contractors, forced to return their harvest at a pre-set price to the company from which they bought their seed. Already, as the agricultural economist Tracey Clunies-Ross has documented, the Scottish seed-potato industry has been taken over by four or five big companies, which are forcing all other breeders to sell their produce to them for £140 a tonne, then passing it on to English farmers for more than twice that amount. It looks like a cartel, it works like a cartel, but, according to the Scottish Office, it is exempt from monopoly referral. For all its rhetoric of choice and free trade, the Government has no desire to protect either the grower or the consumer from the burgeoning rapacity of the corporations. As we wander dreaming down the supermarkets' fantasy galleries, across the farms and gardens of Britain the searchlight of big business seeks out the last tangled corners of self-reliance and autonomy. We are left as helpless and dependent as a rabbit in its beam.



Attack, attack, attack

Martin Rosenbaum puts the 'demon' Blair in the context of political warfare while below, Julian Critchley says please stop frightening the kiddies

AS Tony Blair studies the Conservative ads portraying him as a demon, he can reflect that he is hardly the first politician to face a personalised propaganda offensive on the route to Downing Street. When, for example, Benjamin Disraeli fought Shrewsbury in the 1841 election, he discovered that an opponent had placarded the town with detailed estimates of his extensive personal debts. Disraeli nevertheless won, with the help of any Labour-type "rebuttal unit", but possibly with the aid of some judicious bribery. Newspaper advertising first played an important national role in British politics in the 1950s. As the professional admen started to get involved, they initially stuck to the classic advertis-

The ad was headlined "Yesterday's Men (They failed before)". This prompted the same widespread condemnation of " gutter politics" that the Tory "demon Blair" ad has provoked. Labour leaders were unnerved by the angry reaction, and the campaign was quietly dropped. Labour may have felt it got its fingers burnt, but the Tories unleashed some equally hard-hitting onslaughts in party political broadcasts in the next campaign in February 1974. One starred an unpleasant puppet of Harold Wilson, spewing forth money for the miners, nationalisation and food subsidies. The dominance of negativity in political advertising was reinforced by the impact of the work Saatchi and Saatchi did for the Conservatives after becoming the party's ad agency in 1978. The Saatchi philosophy was "attack, attack, attack", despite the fact that politicians often wanted more positive ads boasting of government achievements. The agency's most effective ads in the four elections from 1979 to 1992 were characterised by their simple, blunt aggression: "Labour Isn't

Working", 1978; "Like Your Manifesto, Comrade" (comparing the Labour and Communist manifestos), 1983; "Labour's Policy on Arms" (a picture of a soldier with arms up to surrender), 1987; and "Labour's Tax Bombshell", 1992. But they all had something else in common too — they criticised policy not personalities. This was not because Saatchi always wanted to avoid personal attacks. In 1988, when Michael Foot was Labour leader, it designed an ad to emphasise Foot's age and apparent infirmity. A picture of Foot using his walking stick, which showed him at his most doddering, was captioned "Under the Conservatives all pensioners are better off". But the ad was vetoed by Margaret Thatcher, who was already confident of overwhelming victory. IN 1992 another Saatchi idea was a poster consisting simply of a picture of Neil Kinnock and the slogan "Vote Conservative", but this also failed to get beyond the drawing board. This time, however, the Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney appears to

have removed the restraints from Maurice Saatchi and his team, now running the Tory campaign from Maurice's new agency, M and C Saatchi. This may well indicate desperation, not least because the Tory tabloids will probably not run the sort of vicious anti-Blair propaganda they deployed effectively against Foot and Kinnock. So the Conservatives have to do it themselves. And despite Labour's complaints, it too has indulged in gungnacious personal attacks when thought advantageous. A 1987 party-political broadcast featured a series of unflattering caricatures of Thatcher, cut to the sound of "A realer royal Queen" from The Gondoliers. And another broadcast last year accused John Major of telling "pork pies". As Maurice Saatchi once said, "The best way to win a world of trial by combat, in which you would hit and be hit" Always has been, always will be.

Don't let go of Nurse

IS Conservative Central office off its head? Always a law unto itself, the party headquarters, in its attempt to demonise Tony Blair, has achieved now save to embarrass every senior Tory to whom I have spoken. Blair has more in common with Red Riding Hood than with the wicked wolf. Ever since the Labour party's spin doctors came up with the slogan "New Labour", the Tory party's witch doctors have been left floundering in a cauldron of their own making. First it was "New Labour Old Danger" which served only to underline the obvious fact that the Labour party has changed its spots. "New

Labour" is a slogan of genius, making as it does two points at once. First, that Blair is no Michael Foot and secondly, that the Tories have been in power for the best part of 17 years. How best to counter it? Certainly not by making personal attacks. Tony Blair is clearly unproven, but he does come across as a decent bloke who is doing his level best to bring Old Labour to its senses. In this task he is greatly aided by the Clare Short's of this world. Blair, however, does suffer from touch of the Cliff Richards in that he is wet rather than demonic, and to cast him in the role of the Norman Tebbit of the People's Party is to

turn politics into light entertainment. It is doubly ironic that when the left of the Labour Party reinforces Blair's appeal every time it opens its mouth, the Eurosceptic wing of the Tory party weakens the Government's standing by drawing attention to the divisions that run through the Conservative Party. A period of silence on the part of John Redwood would be very welcome. But what of Central Office? Why do we have to rely upon smart Alacs brought in from the world of three-hour lunches, soap powders and portable telephones? What do they know about politics? We are not

short of experience. John Wakeham, Geoffrey Howe and Ian Gilmour: it is their brains we should be picking. What then should Conservative Central Office do to persuade the voter to return to the fold? Most important of all there should be no gimmicks; the answer to Blair is to let him twist in the wind, for we have nine months before we must go to the country. The voter may soon tire of his school-boy charm and winning ways. The best slogans of the past like "Don't Let Labour Run It" have placed as much emphasis on the positive as upon the negative. It is never enough to attack your opponents for what they might do in office; it is more important to list one's achievements and promise more of the same. "New Labour is taking care not to

Why A-level students are doing so well

Tony Higgins believes the improved results out today are cause for celebration and not carping

TODAY is a day of celebration. Let us congratulate all those who have passed their A level examinations and passed them well. This year we see a further improvement in the grades achieved and that achievement will doubtless be met by a cacophony of complaints that standards are falling. Those who suggest this would be the same people who if the results were worse than in previous years, would start to question what is going wrong in Britain's schools and why do we lag so far behind others. They cannot have it both ways. Why is it that performance is rising so spectacularly? Surely a generation cannot become that much more intelligent so quickly? The answer may lie in some very detailed research carried out by the government of Singapore, which is a country very invidious about educational standards. The same phenomenon of improved grades was being noted in that country achieved by students who sit English A levels. The results of the research showed that students adopted better examination techniques, their families were able to buy them additional aids such as videos, books, computer programs and tapes; there are better teaching techniques and facilities and students are more strongly motivated so as to be able to get to university or college.

uses it is not a question of forgetting what has recently been taught and others who have been to university themselves will, in the main, have done a subsidiary or supplementary subject in their single honours course which was doubtless examined at the end of the first year or possibly at the end of the second and which was then put aside. But it counted towards the final degree assessment. These are also the first A level exams taken by candidates who have followed the full new national curriculum in English, maths and the sciences. It would give the Government credit for one of its educational reforms? And then there is the complaint that the questions are getting easier. When will people learn that it is not the questions that are important but the answers? If you are asked the question "Are Britain's sporting achievements at international events such as the Olympic Games a disgrace?" you might well answer "yes" and be correct, but you get no marks for the answer.

So it is in Britain. I was fascinated to receive only the other day a series of audio tapes entitled How Your Exams Are Marked, which featured a number of chief examiners. Armed with that information students can approach the examination game much better informed. This year has seen the first major increase in the number of examinees who have done their A levels on a modular basis, as they have been examined at various stages of the two-year syllabus and their assessment achieved throughout the course has been counted towards the final grade. It must be easier, comes the cry, for people to sit the exam at the end of the first term and then forget it to go on to the next stage. Not so. First we are examining students at full A level standard even though they may not have reached the full intellectual maturity that they will reach at the end of the two-year course, and arguably, therefore, those examinations are relatively more hard for them. Second, in many syl-

AND who, frankly, is prepared to agree that the best way to test a level student's ability is to sit him or her, in a doubtless stressed condition, in an examination hall regularly over a period of a few weeks, then to answer questions in two or three hours when the basic skills to be shown are ones of memory and ability to write quickly and legibly. Those syllabuses which allow for course-work mean that if you are posed a question such as "What were the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet empire?" you would have books, newspapers, films and individuals at your disposal so that there would be no excuse for your not being able to produce a full and complete answer. The standards therefore would be highly exacting. Your approach would also doubtless be one which would be reflected in the way in which you would be working in the future. If asked the same question, which needed to be finished in a 45-minute essay answer, surely you could only approximate to perfection and examiners would of course need to make allowances for that. So let us take comfort from the quality shown by our younger generation and express the hope that the Government will not let these students down and therefore adequately fund the universities and colleges where they have deservedly won their places.

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Finance Guardian

City damps rate cut hope

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

CITY pundits were yesterday playing down hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates after a sharper-than-expected fall in unemployment and fresh evidence of Bank of England resistance to an easing of policy.

With fears growing that a rapidly-shrinking dollar queue will provoke an inflationary pick-up in wages, forecasts of cheaper money — kindled earlier in the week by subdued factory-gate prices — had been dashed, some economists said.

Further indications of friction over monetary policy between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, came in the minutes of the July 3 meeting between the two men.

Mr George reiterated his opposition to the June quarter-point cut in base rates to 5.75 per cent and strongly advised against any further easing.

Julian Jessop, UK economist at broker Nikko Europe,

said the markets had been wrong-footed by the 34,100 June fall in the unemployment total, against expectations of a 10,000 drop.

An upwards revision to the May annual earnings figures, from 3.5 per cent to 3.75 per cent, also rattled dealers.

"The combination of the labour market data — including the signs of wages picking up — and the minutes have changed sentiment on rates," he said.

Mr Jessop said that unless Mr Clarke resists the temptation to cut taxes in his November budget, the "window of opportunity" for rate cuts would close.

"If he cuts now, it could badly backfire in the markets. There would be a real danger of a loss of credibility. The picture in monetary policy now is likely to be one of broad stability."

Ahead of today's retail price figures, the debt and money markets read the jobless data as widening the odds on an autumn easing of monetary policy.

Gift futures were down by half a point by the close. Starting lost some ground immediately after the release, although the pound still

closed over a pennig up against a stagnant German currency at 2.3087.

Andrew Milligan, economic adviser at General Accident Investment Management, said yesterday's data would strengthen the Bank's case against rate cuts.

"A stronger-than-expected fall in unemployment, an upwards revision to average earnings growth and signs of

only a slow deceleration in unit wage costs are all grist to the mill for inflation bears," he said.

In the July monetary policy meeting, Mr George pointed to the strength of the money supply and growing consumer spending as a warning sign of future inflation.

"Last month's interest rate cut would, in itself, have increased the risk to the inflation target," the governor said.

Although Mr George said that an immediate reversal of the cut would "send confusing signals to the financial markets and wider economy", last week's Inflation Report from the Bank called on the Chancellor to tighten policy sooner rather than later.

But the minutes show that Mr Clarke was relaxed about the prospects for inflation. "If growth did accelerate to the point where the inflation target was being put at risk, there would be sufficient time to act prudently," he said.

The Chancellor said his aim was to allow the economy to grow as fast as possible consistent with the inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

He said the economy was "gathering strength, but not too fast".

Bundesbank aims to weaken mark

Richard Thomas

AFRESH campaign to talk down the German mark was launched by the Bundesbank yesterday in an attempt to ease the pressure on beleaguered manufacturers.

Oskar Issing, the Bundesbank's normally hawkish chief economist, said a strong D-mark did "not fit into the current economic landscape".

In a newspaper interview, he said exporters were being hit by the overvaluation of the German

currency and warned that the young economic recovery — led by firms selling goods overseas — was not well established.

"It is not yet robust enough that you can say with certainty that it will continue," he said.

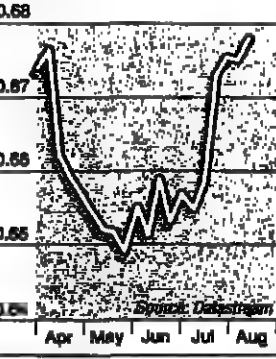
Market-watchers said the interview had prompted speculation the Bundesbank might trim German interest rates when the central council meets next week.

Analysts said an easing of German monetary policy would offer a helping hand to French authorities anxious about a softening franc.

Don Smith, economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "Issing's comments are a tentative sign that the Bundesbank is sensitive to the weakness of the French currency."

Mr Smith said the German currency had not reacted to the interview, remaining virtually unchanged against the yen and US dollar. But the franc did perk up, approaching a monthly high of DM3.42 against the German currency in late trading.

German mark



Notebook

Germany is the place of interest



Mark Milner

INTEREST rates are very much on the minds of the monetary authorities in Britain. Germany and France. The perception is that the first two are in a position to consider a cut in rates, while France would very much like to do so but will have to wait for events across the Rhine.

Take Britain first. Yesterday's publication of the minutes of the July meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, will have caused few surprises.

The governor, no doubt with exquisite politeness, indicated that the previous month's cut in interest rates to 5.75 per cent had increased the risks that the Government would not be able to meet its inflation target. Indeed he warned it might well have brought forward the time when rates would have to be raised.

Certainly Mr George was firm against any further cut in rates, though he did accept that there was no fresh evidence to force the Chancellor to reverse the June reduction and sensibly acknowledged that such a volte-face would, in any case, send unfortunate signals to financial markets.

For his part, the Chancellor himself appeared slightly in-souciant in his July discussions with the Governor. If inflationary pressures did start to appear in the economy there would be sufficient time to act prudently. That might sound rather like Sir Francis Drake's observation on that famous game of bowls and a looming Spanish armada, but within six days Mr Clarke had underlined his view of what was happening to the economy by announcing a modest downward revision of the 3 per cent growth forecast in last year's Budget.

The result of the discussions was what might be regarded as a scoring draw: interest rates were left on hold. The two men will resume the debate in September with the evidence subsequent to their July discussions still ambivalent.

EARLIER this week the latest producer prices data showed inflationary pressures within the manufacturing sector at their lowest level for 30 years. This immediately sparked speculation that Mr Clarke might be tempted into a further cut in rates, though one motivated more perhaps by politics than economics.

Any ardour there was for such a move, however, was tempered by yesterday's unemployment figures and by the average earnings data, which were rather ahead of expectations in the City.

Those will not be the only factors that Messrs Clarke and George have to review

when they meet next. European rates could have edged down another notch by then. The Bundesbank council is due to meet later this month. Prior to its summer break the German central bank appeared to have been hinting that it was prepared to cut German borrowing costs, but in the event it failed to deliver. Now, in its chief economist, Oskar Issing, it again appears to be encouraging financial markets to believe it is considering a cut.

Mr Issing told the International Herald Tribune that German economic recovery has not assured and that the strength of the mark "does not fit into the current economic landscape".

That is being interpreted as a sign that the Bundesbank is seriously considering a rate cut on its mind, and in the short term at least it had the desired effect of knocking the mark back against the dollar.

Few will view events in Frankfurt more keenly than the French government and the Bank of France. The franc has been under pressure of late. French newspapers have been suggesting that the government is attempting to push the French central bank into cutting rates, though the prime minister, Alain Juppé, dismisses the affair as a storm in a teacup. More pertinently, perhaps, there is increasing concern that the French will not be able to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by the end of 1997.

Whatever the truth, both the Bank of France and the administration will breathe a sigh of relief if the Bundesbank does cut rates — allowing Paris to follow suit without appearing to undermine its commitment to the policy of the franc fort. For many in France, monetary machismo is one thing; an unemployment rate of 12 per cent another. In Germany, where unemployment has topped the four million mark, there are also those who would feel a little easier if interest rates were trimmed again.

It remains to be seen if the Bundesbank will share that view, despite both domestic factors and external pressures which include suggestions that unless the Germans help France out of its economic dilemma (via lower interest rates) there could be serious consequences for monetary union. Indeed there are those who suggest that the Bundesbank, as custodian of the value of the German currency, might be less than enthusiastic about the whole idea of monetary union.

That might appear fanciful, though if the German central bank starts to believe that the single currency will not bear the stamp of the Bundesbank's own brand of monetary rectitude, it is likely to make its opinion known.

Meanwhile, with financial markets waiting for a German interest rate cut, events are beginning to bear an uncomfortable resemblance to September 1992 and August 1993, when the Bundesbank disappointed market expectations over interest rates and unleashed storms on foreign exchanges.



Taking a powder... consumers think the choice of brands is confusing, Procter & Gamble has found

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Soap simplification will mean fewer brands

Dan Atkinson fathoms the mystery of those labels, and explains how Procter & Gamble is culling them

ONCE it was all so easy: there was the powder that washed whiter than white, there was another that gave you that special softness and a third that washed away those "biological stains", a euphemism for just about every revolting excess of the human body. Actresses beamed out of the TV, posing as house-

wives. A cardboard box of soap powder sat on every kitchen windowsill. The toughest choice facing the shopper was whether to go for all-action OMO or super-valve Fairy.

It couldn't last... it didn't. Come the 1980s, come "compacts", soap powders in suspiciously small packages claiming to be as good, nay better, than their traditional brethren,

now relabelled "big box" and looked down on as fit only for proletarian types using vintage washing machines.

Hot on the heels of the liquids and hot on their heels came the "super-compacts", soap powders in suspiciously small packages claiming to be... well, you get the picture.

By the mid-1990s, despite recession and consumer depression, the detergent section of the average supermarket took up half an aisle with a baffling array of cleansing agents, all confusingly similar whilst si-

multaneously cunningly different.

The shopper has cried enough, and Procter & Gamble — parent of Ariel, Bold, Daz and Fairy — has heard. Or so it says.

P&G yesterday announced its "great soap simplification", due in October. At a stroke, the company is eliminating the original compact (Ariel Ultra and Ariel Color), thus leaving customers with a straight(ish) choice — conventional powder (all the above) and super-compacts (Ariel Futur and Futur Color). Clear so far?

For those who would prefer it were P&G to learn how to spell properly, there is little cheer. But for others, "simplification" will "clarify" the relationship between regular and super-compacts. In a ratio reminiscent of yesterday's strategic arms reduction talks, 2-1 it is, both in terms of price and striking power.

In other words, a 3-kilo pack of regular equals a 1.5-kilo pack of super-compact, penny for penny.

Or rather, scoop for scoop. Because P&G, pre-empting monetary union, has swept away "the previous mixture of cups and beakers" and declared "the

scoop will become the 'currency' of use". There will be large scoops for regular powder and half-size for super-compact. "Thus both a 3kg regular pack and the equivalent 1.5kg Futur pack will contain the same number of scoops and will last the same length of time."

Given that they will also clean the same number of clothes and cost exactly the same amount of money, innocents may wonder why we cannot return to the days of one box, one powder. But that, perhaps, would be a simplification too far.

No cash for new statistics

Richard Thomas

GOVERNMENT plans for a new monthly measure of economic activity have been mothballed because of insufficient resources, according to Whitehall sources.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has called a halt to groundwork on a monthly estimate of gross domestic product, originally intended to supplement the existing quarterly yardstick, after being forced to trim staff numbers.

One government official said: "This idea has been quietly left to gather dust. Given the pressures the ONS is under, it is simply too

marginal to be a priority." This year the ONS, the Central Statistical Office and the Office for Population Censuses and Surveys, is expected to shed 200 staff, one-twentieth of the existing payroll, in order to cut £2 million from its £100 million budget by the end of the century.

But ONS insiders also pointed to the problem of collecting data of sufficient accuracy to construct a monthly yardstick for the output of the whole economy. Even the quarterly figures have been subject to substantial revisions in recent years, sometimes with adverse market consequences.

"Even if a number could be produced, it might be so flaky that the ONS wouldn't dare publish it," one source said.

Last night an Office spokesman said: "It is true that we have no plans to introduce a monthly GDP measure in the near future.

"We are hoping to get more information on the service sector of the economy, but there is a lot further to go before you can produce a number for the whole economy. It is a question of resources and where to focus them most effectively."

A monthly GDP series was the brainchild of the previous head of the Central Statistical Office, Bill MacLennan, and the ONS chief, Tim Holt, is said to be less enthusiastic.

£60m bonuses at SBC

Sarah Whitebloom

HIGH-FLYING bankers and brokers with the City institution SBC Warburg and its parent Swiss Banking Corporation have shared in a bonus bonanza worth nearly £60 million, according to its interim results yesterday.

The figures show that SBC's personnel costs for the six months to the end of June leaped by 34.4 per cent compared with the same period last year, to £1.1 billion.

Most of the rise relates to the incorporation of SG Warburg, which SBC acquired in July 1995. But, SBC told shareholders yesterday, 7 per

cent of the increase in staff costs — about £9 million — related specifically to "performance-related compensation". It is understood the cash was shared between investment banking and fund management staff and top SBC executives.

The bonuses were paid as SBC reported a big rise in income from investment banking and fund management. Total net commission was £1.14 billion, up 68.5 per cent on the same period last year, with commission from securities trading and investment up 73.3 per cent on the first six months of 1995.

According to SBC, Warburg and private banking had "excellent operational perfor-

mances". The bank said Warburg had exceeded its financial targets.

In addition, the bank — with 20,000 staff worldwide — reported a 10 per cent rise in net interest income. Overall, SBC reported pre-tax profits of £355.5 million — 35 per cent up on last year. Group net profits were £388 million — 34 per cent ahead.

This still disappointed some City critics, who expected a leap of up to 50 per cent following better-than-expected results from UBS, a main competitor. Most disappointment centred on a 37 per cent increase in SBC's provisions, to £366 million. The bank said they would remain high in the second half.

Legal challenge to Lloyd's package

Les Buckingham

LLOYD'S £3.2 billion rescue package was yesterday branded as an unlawful scheme which discriminated against some of the 300-year-old market's most loyal investors and undermined its fundamental principles.

Richard Gordon QC described the reconstruction proposals as "irrational and perverse" as he attempted to persuade the High Court that the 1,275-strong Paying Names Action Group should be allowed a judicial review of the plans.

The legal challenge, deferred earlier this week to allow investors to raise £500,000 to fight the case,

comes just two weeks before 34,000 Lloyd's Names have to decide on the £3.2 billion reconstruction scheme. That is designed to draw a line under the insurance market's disastrous losses.

The proposals favour Names who have refused to pay their underwriting losses and have opted for legal action against the market.

Investors who have paid their dues claim to have been unfairly treated — and yesterday's action was launched in the name of four paying names including Oxfordshire housewife Susan Johnson whose losses top £1 million.

Mr Gordon said the losses suffered by the 1,275 paying Names accounted for 6 per cent of the total market losses before 1992.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9250	France 7.5835	Italy 2.303	Singapore 2.19
Austria 15.84	Germany 2.2225	Malta 0.5350	South Africa 6.54
Belgium 43.74	Greece 353.50	Netherlands 2.4985	Spain 198.00
Canada 2.0775	Hong Kong 11.87	New Zealand 2.1975	Sweden 10.12
Cyprus 0.6895	India 55.21	Norway 9.8265	Switzerland 1.975
Denmark 5.6450	Ireland 0.9445	Portugal 229.75	Turkey 126,650
Finland 6.84	Israel 4.97	Saudi Arabia 5.77	USA 1.5125

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Racing

Owner hits out at Dettori for 'not trying'

Frankie Dettori turned up half an hour late at Salisbury yesterday to find himself in the middle of a row over his riding of Cape Pigeon, on whom he finished third in Walter Swinburn's winning comeback race at Windsor on Monday.

strongly that I've finished with racing. I've had horses for 18 years and had more pleasure from Cape Pigeon, who has won 11 times, than anything you can do with your clothes on.



Sensational... Mick Kinane coasts home on Sensation at Newmarket last month and will be hoping for more of the same from the unbeaten French filly in today's prestigious Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville.

Godson, ran lastly after hitting the front and Dettori, pushing out with hands and heels, had to keep her up to her work after she led two furlongs out.

Charnwood Forest and Gothenburg early grinders, hopes in the Group One Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville today.

The colt's former partner Michael Kinane, who stepped in while the dual champion jockey was injured, rides unbeaten filly Sensation for Crispie Head.

Along with Sensation, France's main hopes are Spinning World (Cash Amusement) and Sherry, the mount of top Japanese rider Masayoshi Ebina.

Salisbury with guide to the latest form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Name. Includes races like 2.15 Broad Chalke Maiden Stakes, 2.45 Wootton Bassett Challenge Cup Handicap, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and Name. Includes races like 5.15 Broad Chalke Maiden Stakes, 5.45 Wootton Bassett Challenge Cup Handicap, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Name. Includes races like 6.15 Broad Chalke Maiden Stakes, 6.45 Wootton Bassett Challenge Cup Handicap, etc.

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Newton Abbot (N.H.) card tonight

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The Paralympics

Britain ready to dig into the gold mine

Richard Redden in Atlanta sets the uncertain scene for the parallel games

THEY are the second-biggest event in the sporting world and the start here tonight with the opening ceremony at the Olympic stadium hosted by the disabled Superman actor Christopher Reeve.

Beverly runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Name. Includes races like 2.00 Beverly runners and riders, 2.30 Beverly runners and riders, etc.

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Results

Table with multiple columns: Race number, Name, and Result. Includes results for various races like 2.00 Beverly runners and riders, 2.30 Beverly runners and riders, etc.

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truggle lence

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truggle lence

Advertisement for RACINE featuring a table with names and numbers, and a phone number 0930 1684.



A home to call his own... Barry Fry takes in the Posh atmosphere at London Road where he is in charge of the Second Division club's destiny both on and off the field

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM LEWIS

Francis is committed to the madhouse again

Robert Pryce reports on the return to Birmingham City of the lost Superboy.

TWICE burned, still shy, Trevor Francis has taken on a manager's job again. The 37-year-old managing director is reported to be impressed nevertheless by her new manager, or at least by the fact that his sons wear Dolce & Gabbana. Indeed, the Francis family will soon follow suit, and now that a sufficient number of Blues strikers have returned to full fitness — Furlong, Newell, Paul Barnes and Kevin Francis have all been injured in the pre-season — the spine should be fine too, provided the goalkeeper Ian

calls them. He has also sold Brady's husband, the Canadian striker Paul Peschiera, but the 37-year-old managing director is reported to be impressed nevertheless by her new manager, or at least by the fact that his sons wear Dolce & Gabbana. Indeed, the Francis family will soon follow suit, and now that a sufficient number of Blues strikers have returned to full fitness — Furlong, Newell, Paul Barnes and Kevin Francis have all been injured in the pre-season — the spine should be fine too, provided the goalkeeper Ian



Francis... twice-burned

Bennett regains the inspiration he showed last season before he broke his hand. The wings, though, look less promising. Francis has been employing three central defenders — Abbott, Bruce and the Irish international Gary Breen — in the Liverpool mode, with the full-backs pushed up on the opposing wide midfielders. But Martin Grainger and Gary Poole, Francis's initial choices for these positions, have yet to look comfortable in their new roles, and Grainger will anyway miss the start of the season after picking up a knee ligament injury in a 2-1 defeat at home to Everton last Saturday.

"I wouldn't say we're too narrow, no," Francis said politely after his team escaped from Walsall with a 1-1 draw last week. And then he added: "There are far too many assessments made on players in pre-season." His teams have not looked too hot in the early season either. In 1989 Queens Park Rangers won only three of 15 games before Francis was sacked. In 1992 Sheffield Wednesday won four of their first 19 games before catching fire in the new year. In 1993 they won only one of their first 13. And the opening day of the following season brought a setback that contradicted his judgment, curdled his confidence and did most to hasten his departure from Hillsborough. Francis has just spent £3.6 million of Wednesday's money on three new defenders to play alongside the £2.7 million Dan Walker, but against Tottenham's ill-fated

"Famous Five" this expensively reinforced back four fell apart like a cheap T-shirt. Spurs won 4-3. Walker's shortcomings had become increasingly evident with age; Peter Abbott had to be shifted to right-back when it became apparent that at least one of the central defenders had to be more commanding in the air; Ian Nolan, bought to play left-back, looked more comfortable on the right; and Dan Petrescu, bought to play right-back, showed no understanding of the demands of stand-offing. Together they played six games, in which Wednesday conceded 14 goals and dropped 16 points. Birmingham supporters should already know that the Superboy they lost in 1979 has not returned as Superman. Sullivan and Brady have themselves had to admit to a few embarrassing errors. There was the threat to force the local papers to pay to cover the team (failed), the scheme that demanded supporters pay extra for tickets to away games (abandoned), and the decision to close down the club's schools of excellence (reversed). Sullivan has already known that the habit of castigating Birmingham supporters. "If we signed Alan Shearer these fans would still find something to moan about," he told reporters last month. "There has been a lot of bad publicity for the club," Francis observed, "with too much public bickering in the newspaper columns." Welcome back to the madhouse, Trevor.

Has-been who never was talks up Posh

Paul Kelso finds the owner-manager of Peterborough United champing at the bit

WHILE most Premiership managers were plotting transfer coups and finalising team selection for the season's opening day, Barry Fry, the new owner-manager of Second Division Peterborough United, had more pressing problems. It had been raining for four hours and the gutters on the new Family Stand could not cope. "It bucketed down all afternoon and the gutters couldn't take it; you could swim in the top half of the table having come 19th last year; I want promotion in the first year. Being realistic, I've got a three-year plan to get us out." Watching Fry on the training ground it is clear his dual responsibilities have not detracted from his enthusiasm. Wearing only shorts and boots he cajoles players on two pitches at once, looking every inch the "51, fat and happy fella" he professes to be. Yet his transformation from training-ground drill sergeant to boardroom boss is effortless. Having promised the players a weekend away so they can all "get a bird, get pissed, and play 18 holes of golf", a now toasty Fry gives a grand tour of the club's London Road ground. As we pass the club secretary's office he looks in and signs a couple of players' contracts. He has always

liked collecting players; for Peterborough he has already signed nine, among them Martin O'Connor from Walsall a club-record buy at £200,000 and "the best player in the Second Division last season," he says. His relish for the game is born of a desire to atone for past failures. When he was an apprentice at Manchester United in the Sixties Matt Busby told him he would be the next Jimmy Greaves. To a degree Busby was right; Fry skipped the scoring feats and went straight for the drinking. "I missed my future up against the wall," he says. "I'm the has-been who never was. I started at the top, failed, and it's been downhill ever since." But Fry does not dwell on the past. Even his sacking from Birmingham — "the biggest surprise I've ever had in football" — has not left him bitter. "I've never looked forward to a season as much as this one. I've got to do the business on the field, but I also want to see if this silly football manager can run a club." As for his fluctuating fortunes he says: "Football is football. There are no ethics or fairness. It's a cut-throat business, but at least these days I don't have to plead for money to buy a player. I haven't got to answer to anyone." The only certainty in management is that you'll get the sack," he says, and adds: "Of course, and the beauty of this job is I can't get the sack."

Rangers digest war dispatch as rivals Celtic chew on mint

RANGERS will have to parade their talents in Vladikavkaz after all next Wednesday, despite the threat of conflict from neighbouring Chechnya. There had been talk of moving the match from southern Russia to Moscow but the European governing body Uefa said yesterday: "The match will go ahead as planned. We are satisfied that the security arrangements are such that the venue did not need to be switched, given all the information we had."

Rangers go into the second leg of the Champions' League qualifying round tie with a 3-1 lead against Alania. Jim Bone has quit as manager of St Mirren in protest at the sacking of his assistant Kenny McDowall for financial reasons. "My principles will not allow me to stay on," he said. Celtic have announced a 54 per cent increase in turnover to £16 million for the year ended June 30, helped by a rise in season-tickets from 18,500 to 29,500.

Villa snap up £4m Curcic from Bolton

ASTON VILLA last night spent a club-record £4 million on Bolton Wanderers' highly rated Yugoslav international Sasa Curcic. But the 23-year-old Serbian midfielder is unlikely to make his debut for at least two weeks while work permit details are sorted out. The deal reunites Curcic with his former Partizan Belgrade team-mate Savo Milosevic, whom Villa signed last summer for £3.5 million. The pair are close friends and Curcic was a regular visitor to Villa Park last season after his £1.5 million move to Burnley in October. Brian Little, the Villa manager, twice approached Bolton over Curcic last season. "This is the one player I have been trying to sign above all others," he said last night. "It's a fantastic deal for the club. I've been in regular contact with [Bolton's manager] Colin Todd over the last six months and was resigned to playing a patient and waiting game." Sunderland too are expected to break their transfer record today, paying £1.3 million for Manchester City's Niall Quinn. "It's a club record but he's an international footballer and I'm delighted to have him," said Sunderland's manager Peter Reid. Leicester paid Norwich £600,000 for the defender Spencer Prior and are seeking to sign Millwall's goalkeeper Casey Keller for £1 million.

Results

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP Second round: Clydebank (1) 1, Rangers (2) 3; Van Veenen 21, 29, McCorn 55. Stranraer (1) 1, Dundee (2) 2; Stranraer 70. **EUROPEAN INTERNATIONALS** Hungary 1, United Arab Emirates 1; Sweden 1, Czech Republic 1. **FAIR PLAY CUP** Second-round draw: East Fife v Falkirk; Morton v Dundee; Greenock Morton v Inverness; South Shields v Clyde; Aberdeen v Dunfermline; Stranraer v Inverness; Gr. Ayres v St. Johnstone. **UEFA** (UEFA Cup) (1) 1-1, 1-1; 7 Home (1) 1-0, 1-0; 2 Away (1) 1-0, 1-0.

Cricket

SWANSEA (1) 1, Glamorgan (2) 2; Glamorgan 100. **WALSLEY** (1) 1, Yorkshire (2) 2; Yorkshire 100. **WILTSHIRE** (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100. **WILTSHIRE** (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100. **WILTSHIRE** (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100.

Cricket

WILTSHIRE (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100. **WILTSHIRE** (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100. **WILTSHIRE** (1) 1, Gloucestershire (2) 2; Gloucestershire 100.

Sport in brief

Equestrianism The £120,000 Silk Cut Derby, which opens at Hickstead today, has drawn entries from 11 nations, writes John Kerr. Michael Whitaker, the four times winner, rides Elton and Tony Irish, known as Touchdown and Nick Skelton, are expected to partner Cathleen. A £5,000 bonus will be paid should a rider win both tomorrow's Derby trial and the Derby itself. **Olympic Games** Athens yesterday gave the fourth city to submit a bid to host the 2004 Games, one day before the IOC deadline.

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Soccer

Gullit plays name game

Martin Thorpe on what may become a Premiership blueprint for the future

ROUD GULLIT yesterday offered an insight into why Arsenal and other Premiership clubs are seeking high-profile drawing cards as managers. Chelsea's boss was speaking as Highbury applied the fine print to Arsene Wenger's contract. Although the Frenchman lacks Gullit's playing credentials, Europe is well aware of his managerial record. And reputation counts for everything when it comes to luring high-calibre players from the Continent.

If took Gullit just one phone call to Gianluca Paliotti, the manager of the Italian club Fiorentina, and Roberto Di Matteo to ensure that each was on his way to Stamford Bridge.

"I want to Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, and told him who I wanted, said Gullit. "I'm not personally; my best friend, a manager, tipped me off that Di Matteo was available; and Lebonf is someone I knew was a good player."

"I then phoned each one. Just one phone call each. They left the negotiations to Colin because wages and fees are not my concern."

The signings have had a galvanising effect on the club and season-ticket sales have reached a club-record £3 million. Replica shirt sales and other merchandise have also gone through the roof.

Hutchinson confirmed Gullit's influence. "We've got two marvellous plusses," he said, "Ruud's reputation throughout Europe and the attraction of London to overseas players. If you had said last year that Gullit, Vialli and Di Matteo were coming to Chelsea they would have put you in a loopy bin and thrown away the key."

Gullit also revealed that money was a major factor in his decision to buy European. "I could have bought English players instead," he said. "But they cost money and I couldn't afford it."

He went on to predict that Chelsea's lead in employing a separate person to negotiate transfers would increasingly be followed in England. "The old way is too much for one man to manage, train, do the paperwork. You don't have enough time, and everybody has his own specialities."

However, he argued that there was still a place for traditional English methods on the pitch. "In Euro 96 England played in the European way and everybody loved it. But what the English must not do is just play the European way. You must make a mixture of it; keep your own identity and take some things that are good from abroad to improve your game."

"The identity is famous worldwide. But I can feel something is changing at Chelsea and in the whole English game."

SportsGuardian

Arsenal reveal hand of Wenger

Martin Thorpe

THE Frenchman Arsene Wenger is the new manager of Arsenal. The choice became clear yesterday when the Highbury club confirmed they had signed two French players, one for £4 million.

Arsenal would not have paid out without instructions from a new manager, and the fact that the pair are French and little known outside their own country confirms Wenger's imminent arrival.

Both are midfielders, Rémi Garde from Wenger's old club Strasbourg, and the £4 million Patrick Vieira from Milan, who both signed ahead of today's deadline for eligibility for the first three rounds of the UEFA Cup.

Formal confirmation of Wenger's arrival at Arsenal is being delayed pending agreement over an early release from his contract with the Japanese club Grampus Eight which is due to run out in November.

Vieira, a 20-year-old defensive midfielder, is a rising star, on the fringe of the French national team and, when with Cannes, the youngest captain in French football. He was due to play in the French Olympic team, but picked up an injury.

Garde is 30 - bringing to seven the number of 30-plus players in the Arsenal squad - and an international with six caps. He was out of contract at Strasbourg and joined

as a free agent under the Bosman ruling.

Yesterday Bruce Rioch was said to be "very aggrieved and very upset" by the sports lawyer Mel Goldberg over his sacking. However, Goldberg denied suggestions that Rioch - who is expected to receive a £500,000 pay-off - was planning to sue the club.

The Scot was not given enough time to complete the job, said Goldberg, who added: "Wenger won't be able to get the team changed in a year and anyway may not be free until November. If that happens, a third of the season is gone, so I suspect the results won't be very good."

Goldberg threw some light on the back-stage tensions that existed when he said: "Obviously in the latter days Bruce didn't get on with the board and one individual in particular." This was a reference to the Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein.

Referring to the fact that Arsenal signed just one player, John Lukic, on a free transfer, in 14 months, Goldberg said: "After the George Graham debacle a system was put in place whereby the manager chose the players and the list was given to the directors to complete the transfers."

"Assuming Bruce did his job, which I believe he did, the haul was placed in the court of the directors. Whether they did or didn't do anything is a matter of opinion, but clearly they haven't found anybody at all."

The *Guardian* theory, page 14

MITCHELL DIPS TO VICTORY BUT MILER MASTERKOVA STEALS ZURICH SHOW



Milestone... Svetlana Masterkova, who knocked more than three seconds off Paula Ivan's seven-year-old world mile record at Zurich last night

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAY MORTIMORE

Christie leaves with pride and a smile

Duncan Mackay in Zurich

LINFORD CHRISTIE narrowly failed to repeat his triumphs of the past two years as he finished third in the 100 metres in his last appearance at the Weltklasse meeting here last night.

He walked off the Letzigrund stadium track for the last time, his head held high and his face awash with a grin after running one of the best races of his final year. The race was how he dreamt the Olympics might have been before he was disqualified in the final.

The Briton, winner here in

1994 and 1995, was challenging for the victory all the way to the line before Dennis Mitchell of the United States beat him on the dip in 10.04sec. Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion and world record holder from Canada, finished second in 10.06 with Christie third in the same time.

Christie, attired in yellow, green and blue flashings like a packet of wine-gums, had qualified comfortably from his heat with practised ease: starting well, maintaining momentum over the final 30 metres and, after crossing the line second to Ato Boldon in 10.17, wheeling away with his "let's get on with it" look. Even his step seemed to have recovered its jauntyness.

A false start by Mitchell in the final, 30 minutes later, must have brought back uncomfortable memories for the Briton. Out of the blocks at the second attempt, Mitchell won because he still started better than Bailey or Christie. Bailey, uncoiling into the cumbersome, low-knee stride

that calls on all the power of his hips and back, did not have the acceleration he showed in Atlanta and had to work hard to hold off Christie at the tape.

The capacity of the stadium is 22,000 but, with less than half that number seated, spectators who had paid up to £100 a ticket had needed to be at the gates when they opened - two hours before the start - to get a good position.

The packed terraces had a football-style atmosphere which helped inspire Britain's Jon Ridgeon, making his first appearance here since his high-hurdling days, to finish second to the American Eric Thomas in the 400m hurdles B race in 48.79 - only 0.06 worse than his four-year personal best.

An Achilles tendon injury at the start of the 1993 season had led Ridgeon to believe his career was over, until he made an unexpected recovery last autumn and was able to launch an Olympic comeback. Months of hard work were nearly wasted in Atlanta

when he injured a calf two days before his first race. He recovered sufficiently to reach the semi-final but was disappointed with his performance. "Next to the Olympics this is the best place in the world to run well, I suppose," he said.

The crowd's joy at the 100m was nothing compared with the ecstasy that greeted Svetlana Masterkova's world record of 4min 12.56sec in the mile, taking more than three seconds off the Romanian Paula Ivan's seven-year-old mark.

After considerable pace-making from her compatriot Lyudmila Borisova, Russia's Olympic 800 and 1500m champion began lifting her knees higher, unleashing her springy legs to gobble up more of the track with each stride, covering the last lap of her first mile in under 60sec.

Once over the line Masterkova, who is based in Spain, turned and bowed to the terraces. It appeared she was hardly out of breath after setting the 20th world

record at this meeting. Colin Jackson, who has been eclipsed by Allen Johnson in the 110m hurdles this season, was beaten by a quartet of Americans, finishing sixth in 13.40. Jack Pierce, a man with a point to prove after failing to finish in the US Olympic trials, was the winner, ahead of the Olympic champion Johnson in 13.31.

Such was the strength of the hurdles that Tony Jarrett, the world silver medalist who fell in the Olympics, was reduced to the B race. The Briton's sour expression showed how displeased he was as he crossed the line comfortably first in 13.38.

Roger Black, the Olympic silver medalist and Ridgeon's best friend and training partner, seemed to be running on tired legs as he finished fourth in a 400m won by the American, Anthony Maybank, in 44.18. Consolation for Black was that he won his race within a race against the fifth-placed Mark Richardson, clocking 44.83 to 44.97.

BECKSENTRICS

Claude Arcene thought his luck had finally changed when, standing beneath the Eiffel tower, a wallet full of cash landed at his feet. From that day on he resolved to keep a daily vigil at the spot to reap the rewards that fate would throw him. Which, as it turned out, were very few. He has, at last, decided to retire after 12 years in which all he collected was one miserable cigarette lighter.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

They were all running as fast as they could, away from the base, as if trying to put as much of Berkshire between them and it as quickly as they could. Growing up near Greenham

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Guardian Crossword No 20,732

Set by Logodaedalus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Across

- 1 Something on the track involves a long wait (5-3)
- 5 Ancient city where the best ended too soon (8)
- 9 In charge, admitting it to be endless (8)
- 10 Pen of Georges Simenon starting to wallow in copiousness (8)
- 11 Put away excitement in the lean-to (8)
- 12 Whittener; one pound brought back by corporal maybe (8)
- 14,28 We and they bombed houses unfortunately for this fearsome woman (3,3,4,2,8)
- 18 Make a stew, Diane, but be patient (4,3,3)
- 22 Payment a socialist returned for a baby's bottle (6)
- 23 see 14

Down

- 1 Although a learner, must take part in card game (6)
- 2 Talented, yes, but what a fidget! (8)
- 3 I'm not so young, I realize, when in New York (6)
- 4 Where sunbathers won't be: in comparative obscurity (2,3,5)
- 6 Taxmen with large specs stretching fringe benefit for descendants (8)
- 7 Excessive amount makes half-back depraved (8)

سكنا من الاجل